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Q&A
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VOL.74, NO. 1, 2012

NO EASY FIX

WRESTLING WITH TODAY'S DRUGS OF CHOICE

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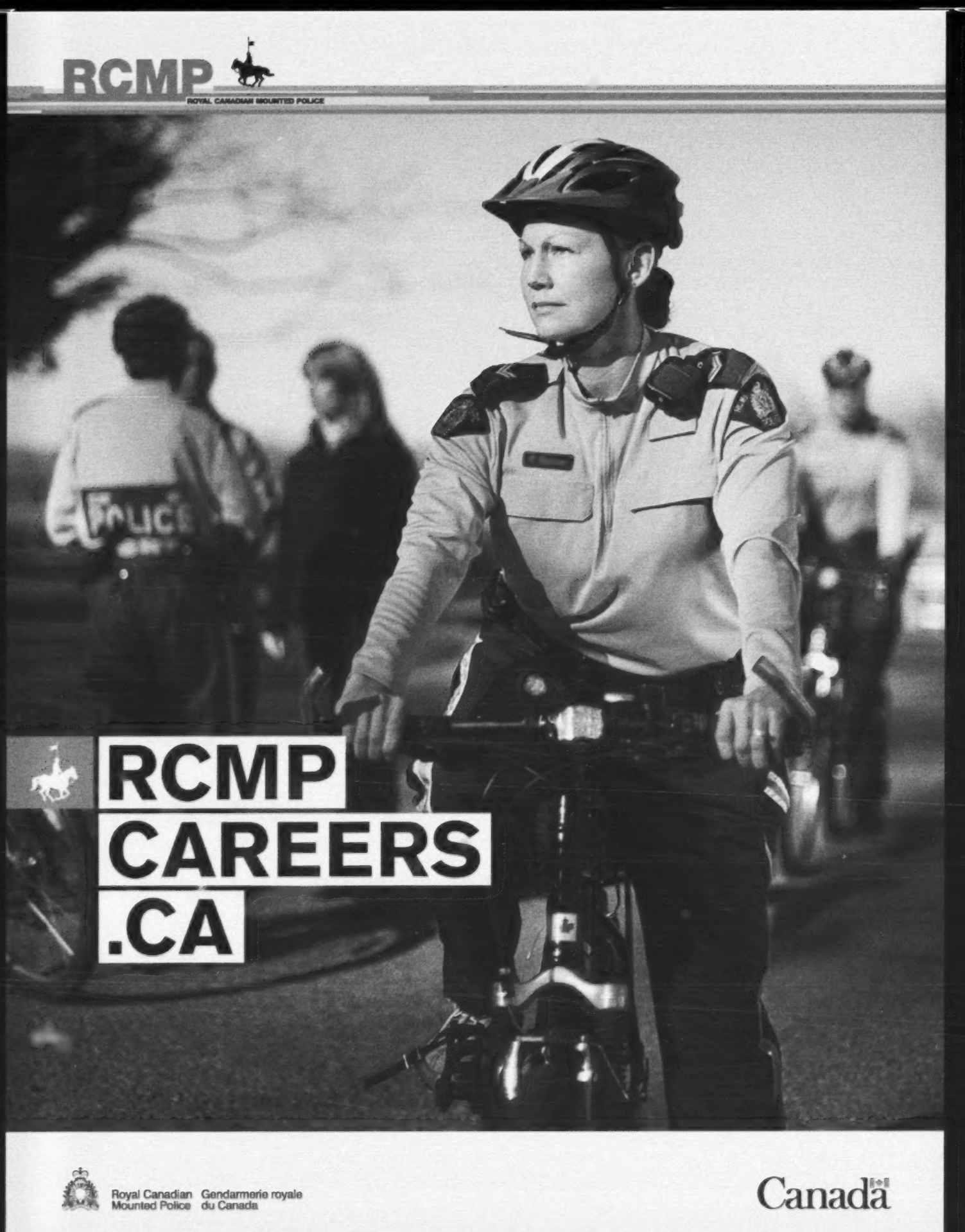
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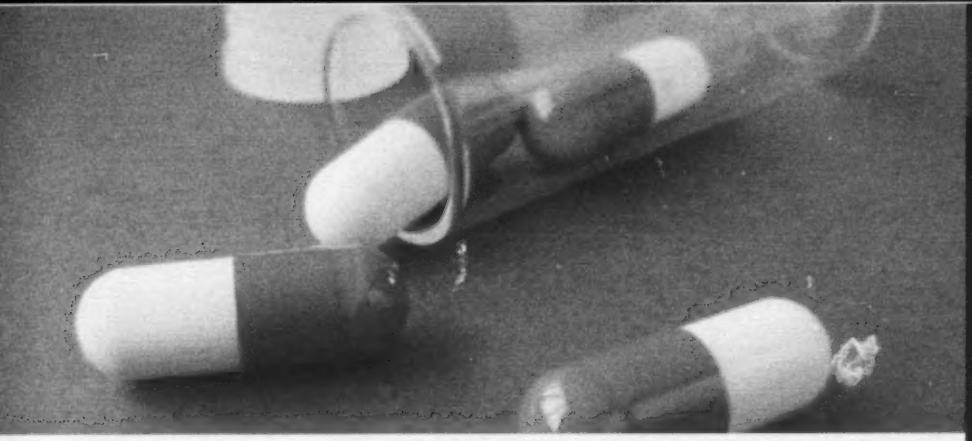

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF TODAY'S DRUGS

There's nothing new about substance use and abuse; it's been going on for centuries. But what has changed are the drugs people use. Traditional street drugs such as cocaine and heroin are no longer the drugs of choice. Today, synthetic drugs like methamphetamine are second only to cannabis as the most commonly abused drugs worldwide.

In our cover section, we learn about the production and supply of synthetic drugs like meth and ecstasy. These drugs remain a challenge to police as their precursor ingredients change like the wind and the drugs can be manufactured almost anywhere. There is no quick fix, at least from a police perspective, but strides are being made.

We also look at how counterfeit drugs and health products are getting into the hands of unsuspecting users over the Internet, with bad results, and we focus on the victims of illicit drugs — a side that so often gets overlooked.

S/Sgt Mark Houldsworth of the Ottawa Police Service explains the benefits of early intervention and diversion for youth who are at risk of becoming regular offenders, and referring them to appropriate agencies in the community. We also hear from Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre and three drug prevention projects for young people that are showing promising results.

And in the wake of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision to allow Canada's only supervised injection site (SIS) in Vancouver to remain open, Insp. Scott Thompson of the Vancouver Police Department describes the SIS model and its implications for police officers. As other Canadian cities consider opening sites of their own, Thompson says it's crucial for police to ensure they're included early in the planning.

Further afield, Assistant Chief Mike Bosse of the Lexington Police in Kentucky writes about an early-career drug arrest and how a simple decision he made changed the outcome for that person, for the better.

We also look at the serious and evolving health problem of prescription drug abuse.

S/Sgt. Shawn White of the Cornwall Community Police Service describes the growing tragedies in his community and across Ontario resulting from the abuse of prescription drugs such as OxyContin, and what progress he and partner agencies are making through a dedicated OxyContin task force.

Outside our cover section, *Gazette* writer Sigrid Forberg speaks to Robert Wittman, a former FBI art crime specialist who has a passion for art and keeping it safe.

We also highlight two new technologies: a remote-controlled aerial unit for photographing collisions and crime scenes, and PhotoDNA software that speeds and eases the work of child exploitation investigators.

And Tim Larkin of the Queenland Police Service in Australia outlines the advantages of using social media during disasters, such as the extreme flooding there last year.

Finally, we are pleased to introduce the RCMP's 23rd Commissioner, Bob Paulson, who candidly shares with contributing writer Mallory Procunier his vision for leading the force. Commr. Paulson reminds us that while developing new technologies is important for police work, using "old-school" policing skills, like good communication, must remain the cornerstone of how we do the work.

We hope you enjoy our first issue of 2012. ▪

— Katherine Aldred

GAZETTE

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COPS AND COMMUNITIES

Marijuana grow operations are a significant problem in Canada, and one that law enforcement can't erase through arrests.

The RCMP Marihuana Grow Initiative (MGI), announced last fall, takes a three-pronged approach to the elimination of marijuana grow operations across the country: enforcement, deterrence and awareness.

Sgt. Chan Dara, the RCMP's national marijuana grow operations co-ordinator, says of the three components, awareness is the most important right now.

"If we could change Canadian attitudes towards marijuana grow operations, then it would spawn more community-led initiatives," says Dara. "Communities will not accept these operations in their neighbourhoods."

The initiative was in response to the fact that the RCMP noticed that while they were successfully uncovering marijuana grow operations, the number of seizures they were doing each year was not declining.

"Law enforcement continues to seize approximately 1.8 million plants a year across the country," says Dara. "We don't want to be busy seizing grow ops forever and we don't want the well-being and safety of our neighbourhoods to be eroded by these illicit operations. And so we're retooling, rethinking and repositioning our strategy."

Dara says communities across the country, and especially in B.C., are already getting involved and pressuring their local governments to come up with new bylaws relating to grow operations.

In Canada, the majority of grow ops are run by organized crime groups. Grow houses are likely to pose threats to occupants through faulty electrical wiring and toxic mould contamination. And with the criminal element, occupants are also vulnerable to increased crime like violent home invasions.

Sgt. Dan MacGillivray, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Nova Scotia RCMP's marijuana grow op enforcement team, says efforts against grow operations are focused on protecting neighbourhoods.

"If we want to make communities safer, we really have to take these marijuana grow ops seriously," says MacGillivray. "We're more focused on taking down these high levels of organized crime."

One of these initiatives has been to create a site listing residences that have been discovered as grow operations and dismantled by police. The site also provides a list of indicators that a home has previously been a grow house.

Dara says the hope is that in sharing this knowledge, potential homeowners will get into the habit of asking the right questions and protecting themselves. ■

— Sigrid Forberg

Mould found on the walls of a marijuana grow operation.

Courtesy RCMP Drug Branch

MANITOBA FIGHTS BODY ARMOUR PRESENCE

RCMP

Body armour is designed for police and public safety officers. The new act will require anyone outside of the specified professions to apply for a permit.

The provincial government in Manitoba has introduced a new Body Armour and Fortified Vehicle Control Act, which will come into effect in early 2012.

The purpose of the act is to help prevent crime by ensuring that body armour and fortified vehicles are used only by those who have a legitimate need for them.

Authorized personnel will include police officers, firefighters or emergency response technicians, sheriffs or deputy sheriffs or correctional officers. Others who need to use body armour in the course of their employment will have to apply and be approved for a permit.

S/Sgt. Marc Samson, of the Manitoba RCMP's Drugs and Integrated Organized Crime Branch, says that body armour is increasingly becoming a presence at crime scenes.

"We've seen it on a few searches and actually people that we've arrested, either they're wearing it or they're storing it," says Samson. "We don't encounter it as much when we personally deal with the criminal element, it's more when they deal with each other."

Samson adds that it would be safe to assume that when they are wearing body armour, they are more prone to engage in violent confrontations with each other and possibly law enforcement personnel.

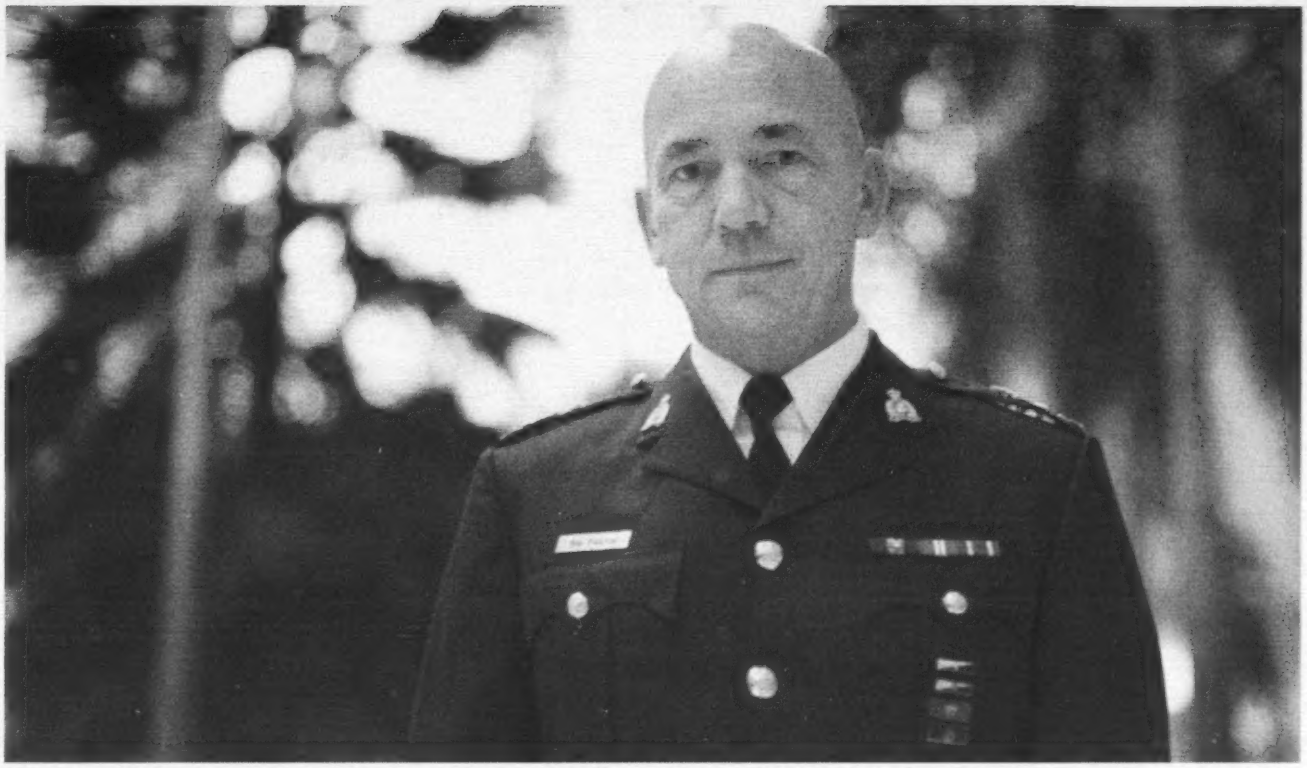
The Manitoba government has taken notice and this legislation is their response to the threat the illegitimate use of body armour poses to both police and the public.

"Body armour is designed for police officers and persons involved in public safety. It has no place in the hands of criminals to help protect them while committing crimes, or protect them when being confronted by police," says a spokesperson on behalf of Manitoba Justice Minister Andrew Swan.

While Samson says the problem has yet to reach the levels of violence experienced across the border in the United States, he still thinks the legislation is a good thing.

"We are seeing more violence and it will benefit us in the long run. It'll be another tool in our box," says Samson. "In the future, it'll be one more charge we'll be able to lay." ■

— Sigrid Forberg



Dave Chan

"I WANT TO BE A LEADER THAT GETS THINGS DONE"

COMMISSIONER BOB PAULSON ON BECOMING 23RD LEADER OF THE RCMP

By Mallory Procunier

To say Commissioner Bob Paulson has been busy following his appointment on Nov. 16, 2011 is an understatement. Even securing an interview was challenging and eventually led to Gazette *writer Mallory Procunier having an unorthodox but engaging conversation with Paulson in the back seat of a car as he travelled between meetings across Ottawa. Here, Paulson talks about what it takes to lead a force under scrutiny.*

WHY DID YOU WANT THE JOB OF COMMISSIONER?

Well, it wasn't something that I went after with a vengeance.

I didn't join the force with that in mind. I joined the force to be a police officer. I think when the commissioner's job came open and I was positioned as a deputy commissioner and invited to participate in the process, then that's when I wanted the job.

I wanted the job because I thought I could make a difference. I had been around the commissioner's office and the organization for a long time and I think I understand the processes so that's why I went after it and here I am.

SO NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE JOB, WHAT IS YOUR VISION?

First of all, our mission is to provide safe homes and safe communities.

The vision I have for the organization is making sure that the people who are responsible for that mission, in other words, all 30,000 employees, understand that how we do our work is just as important as what we do.

We need to connect the results of our work to the way we do our work. By that I mean how we engage with citizens, how we engage with partners and how we engage with colleagues.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

I think the biggest challenge is changing individual behaviour. I've talked about my priorities being accountability and leadership.

I think leadership, frankly, is the vehicle to changing behaviours. We're going to do that by having everybody from me on down through the organization be accountable to one another.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO RUN A POLICING ORGANIZATION IN AN INCREASINGLY TECHNOLOGICALLY DRIVEN WORLD?

I think that we can get sucked in to thinking that technology is "the vehicle" to deliver our mission.

Technology as a tool is perhaps most helpful in communication. We can use it to communicate with one another and communicate with Canadians.

But I've seen, far too often, our police officers getting away from our core business and core competencies by thinking that technology must be brought in.

Just because you can do something doesn't mean you must do something. Fundamentally, in police work, the ability of police officers to be able to look in the eye of our complainants and suspects and bring them

along into the criminal justice process is the skill that we need to develop.

If people are too distracted by technology, they don't focus on the human component. We need to bring back old-school policing skills and talk to people. Policing is a people game.

Technology can be very helpful but I'm concerned that somehow our members look at technology too often to solve problems that ought to be solved by developing their key interpersonal skills.

WHAT TYPE OF LEADER DO YOU WANT TO BE?

I want to be a leader that gets things done. I love simplifiers and I detest complicators. I'm a leader who loves to have things simplified so they can be understood by me, first of all, but also by others who are involved in the process.

I want to be a leader that engenders simplicity, battles complexity and brings clarity to our mission.

I think we don't manage risk well as an organization and as individuals. One of the fundamental laws of physics when it comes to leadership is, in my book, "no risk, no innovation." You're not going to change unless you're prepared to take some risks.

RCMP

HOW DOES ACCOUNTABILITY FIT IN WITH THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS?

We're all accountable. I am accountable to the Minister of Public Safety, to the prime minister, and to Canadians.

I'm also accountable to employees. What we need to do is to make sure that people understand that everyone is accountable for what they do at work.

What I want is for supervisors to understand that they are accountable for their role as leaders. A concept that I'm trying to push out is this idea that if you're a supervisor, it's not just a position with crowns or stripes.

It's about owning the activity that your staff and your people are engaged in. It's not about being bossy and it's not about being better than anyone, but it's about leading people.

So I want everybody to know that that's what I understand accountability to be. I'm going to hold people to account and I want people to hold each other to account for how they behave with one another.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THERE HAS BEEN CRITICISM FROM THE MEDIA REGARDING THE BEHAVIOUR OF MEMBERS. SOME PEOPLE SAY WE'RE NOT QUICK ENOUGH TO DEFEND OURSELVES. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THAT?

I've received a couple of e-mails from ex-members and serving members on this recent controversy with respect to harassment. They were critical that I wasn't standing up front and defending our members.

I guess what I'd say to that is this: 99 per cent of our members perform very professionally, day in and day out, in terms of serving Canadians.

The idea that we are going to defend against the criticisms that we've had in the past several years with words is a mistaken idea. That's not an effective way of defending the force.

What I'm going to do is defend the members by actions. We have, in some very small yet significant areas, fundamentally let Canadians down. There's a higher standard that applies to police work.

Sometimes our people don't get that and it's not okay to just go out and engage in a war of words.

We've got to change how we act and we've got to demonstrate to Canadians that we're serious about maintaining the image and the reputation of this great institution.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A POLICE OFFICER OVER YOUR CAREER?

I've worked a number of big cases and important homicides and organized crime cases, but I remember this one case that sticks out in my mind.

It was a particularly difficult sexual assault case of a lady that lived alone in a trailer park in Chilliwack . She was sleeping when her home was burglarized and she was brutally attacked and raped.

Through some pretty good investigation by my colleagues and I, we were able to bring this case to court. I remember sitting in the court room and getting kind of emotional because I realized that if the RCMP did not engage in the way we did, this crime would have gone unpunished.

I've had a number of proud moments but I guess that would be one of the earliest moments where I recognized the enormity of the responsibility we have in this organization.

I realized that when it works well, as it does most of the time, it's the proudest feeling in the world.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL THE INTERNATIONAL POLICING COMMUNITY AND OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS?

We, as I think everyone knows, are very well respected internationally. I think that one of the things we do very well is represent the organization abroad.

This is important in the Canadian context because that international reputation has people seeking us out and wanting to engage us in areas of the world. We're a frontier police force. Our history is being on the frontier, going into the frontier and bringing Canadian values to the frontier, and that's what makes us so attractive internationally, especially in these hard done by areas of the world.

I think it's very important work for the Canadian context because it reinforces those values. ■

Courtesy Sgt. Brent Hill

Members of the Ontario RCMP's clan lab team dismantle a meth lab in the northern Bruce Peninsula. There was so much meth in the residence that police needed to use shovels to collect it all.

FLAWS IN THE DESIGN

ADDRESSING CANADA'S SYNTHETIC DRUG PROBLEMS

By Sigrid Forberg

Canada is taking centre stage in the international issue of synthetic, or designer, drugs. But it's not because we've become a shining example in the war on drugs.

In its annual report, the United Nations singled Canada out as a major trafficking hub for methamphetamine and ecstasy, supplying largely to the United States and Asia. Over the past two decades, the problem has only gotten worse and few Canadians are aware of the full scope of the issue.

The RCMP's first national chemical diversion program was created in 2001. Within two years, four of Canada's largest provinces had full-time clandestine lab investigative teams. Then, in 2009, the RCMP implemented a national synthetic drug initiative, with the goal of bringing all members up to speed on the issues of the day.

The majority of the Canadian synthetic drug problem originates from three locations: British Columbia (B.C.), Ontario and Montréal, Quebec.

About 70 per cent of the national problem is seated in B.C.

"It's no secret that B.C. is a hub for synthetic drugs," says Sgt. Darin Sheppard, the non-commissioned officer in charge of synthetic drug operations for the province. "And everyone is involved: traditional, Asian and East Indian organized crime, outlaw motorcycle gangs and the multi-ethnic gangs that have become prominent in B.C. over the past decade."

Sheppard attributes the proliferation of drugs to the proximity of Asia and the Pacific, where most of the precursor chemicals required for designer drugs originate, as well as Canada's comparatively lax laws regarding imports of chemicals.

Current Canadian legislation regulates key ingredients in the recipes of drugs like methamphetamine, ecstasy and their derivatives.

However, the legislation is specific, meaning the slight modification of one atom in these chemicals transforms what was a controlled substance into a non-controlled substance that is technically legal to import.

These analogues have further opened the market for prospective drug producers. What used to be a problem mostly linked to outlaw motorcycle gangs has grown to include anyone and everyone looking for an easy profit.

And beyond the question of legality, synthetic drugs pose a serious threat to public safety.

The production of methamphetamine emits toxic and potentially explosive gases. Most clandestine labs are discovered after catching fire or exploding.

And if the labs are not uncovered, the producers tend to move on, making minor repairs as necessary, but typically, the homes are not fit to be lived in afterwards. Sheppard compares it to painting the walls with toxic chemicals — although it's no longer being used as a lab, the walls and carpeting will continue to let off toxins.

The waste produced while cooking methamphetamine is also concerning. Sheppard says that for every pound of meth produced, it creates seven pounds of toxic waste. And the people who are producing drugs don't concern themselves with dumping their hazardous materials safely.

"What we get is these 25-gallon drums being dropped off illegally in the middle of the night on other properties or logging trails in the middle of nowhere," says Sheppard. "Or even just straight into bodies of water, leaking these toxic materials right into the water system."

Sgt. Brent Hill, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Ontario's chemical diversion unit, says his province's problem originates from the fact that the majority of the legitimate chemical industry is seated in the greater Toronto area and southwestern Ontario.

Chemicals are diverted from the legitimate chemical industry and resold by Ontario-based criminal enterprises acting as rogue chemical brokers.

Hill describes these brokers as dishonest people or commercial companies that distribute their products with a blind eye or knowledge that they are going towards the production of synthetic drugs.

"The problem is not going to go away. There's a lot of money at stake," says Hill. "A drum of ephedrine that would cost you $1,000 in India, if you divert it to a drug trafficker here, you could sell for about $250,000."

But he ads that the legitimate chemical industry is law enforcement's closest ally. The RCMP is currently working with companies to educate them on what to watch out for to identify these rogue dealers.

Hill attributes the problems Canadian law enforcement face with synthetic drugs to a lack of public knowledge.

He says he's surprised that more people aren't outraged by the situation in their country.

He points out that it's general knowledge internationally that Colombia is a major supplier of cocaine, but few Canadians fully realize their country's synthetic drug troubles.

"Make no mistake, when drug labs are in your community, everyone's in the trenches. This is not a victimless crime," says Hill.

Canada's laws also don't stand up next to their American counterparts.

U.S. lawmakers have the ability to enact emergency legislation for emerging new synthetic drug problems on the horizon, whereas in Canada, the laws are constantly playing catch-up with innovations in the drug trade.

The major concern with this is that at the moment, there is a huge demand in the U.S. for methamphetamine.

Because of the strict laws there, it makes Canada an ideal place to supply the huge demand.

But Canadian lawmakers are starting to take notice. Just last summer, Parliament passed a private member's bill to amend the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, making it a crime to possess the tools of synthetic drug production.

And while that is one more tool for police in tackling the issue, the evolving challenge law enforcement now faces is the availability of non-controlled chemicals over the Internet.

Sgt. Douglas Culver, the national coordinator of synthetic drug operations for the RCMP, says the Internet has blown the market right open.

"Anyone can just go online and order up one of these new non-controlled designer drugs and legally import it into Canada, then all they have to do is put it in dosage sizes and it's out on the streets," says Culver. "Absolutely anybody can become a drug dealer overnight with the click of a mouse."

But RCMP resources are spread too thin to be able to make a significant dent in the online presence of synthetic drugs.

Sgt. Ken Cornell, the national chemical diversion co-ordinator, recently represented the RCMP at a synthetic drugs conference in the Netherlands. SYNDEC, short for synthetic drug enforcement conference, brought together members of law enforcement organizations from across Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

Cornell says all the countries gathered said they're facing the same issues with the Internet and the lack of resources to effectively address it.

He adds that it not only takes a knowledge of synthetic drugs to carry out these investigations, but also a knowledge of technology and the Internet.

And even more, each country's problems overlap with one another. With the Internet, it's impossible to define clear borders and boundaries.

The effect of that, Cornell says, is that locally focused strategies are not sustainable. The international community needs to continue to communicate and collaborate, and share both information and initiatives.

"Some countries might have innovative legislation that allows law enforcement to seize things at the border, but if other neighbouring countries don't, then it loses its teeth," says Cornell. ■

PLEASURE DRUG CAUSES PAIN

Methamphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant that works by releasing dopamine in the parts of the brain responsible for regulating pleasure. It can be injected, smoked or snorted.

The high, similar to the effects of cocaine, can last up to 10 or 12 hours.

The effects of the drug are unpredictable and can vary from person to person, but typically, the user will experience an intense rush of euphoria, resulting in increased sense of well-being and alertness.

Recipes for methamphetamine vary greatly depending on the ingredients producers can get their hands on.

The chemicals that make up methamphetamine are extremely dangerous and harmful to the body.

Some of the common ingredients include battery acid, red phosphorous, ephedrine, lye, iodine and ether.

Not only is it highly addictive, but tolerance to the drug develops rapidly.

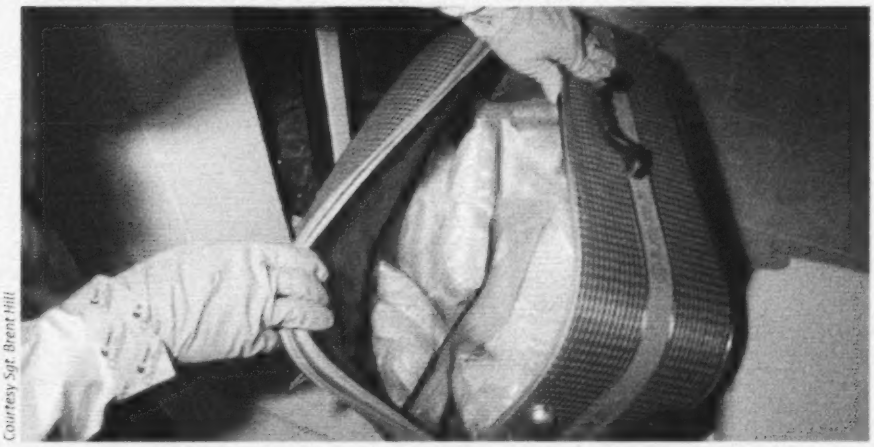
Tweaking, the stage in which the effects of a high-dose of methamphetamine wears off, is characterized by anxious and aggressive behaviour, which leaves users at a high risk for injury or violence.

Users will even attempt suicide while coming down or during withdrawal.

Long-time users of methamphetamine can develop paranoid thought patterns, severe agitation, psychosis and reduced motor skills.

In some cases, psychotic symptoms can linger for years after use.

Police uncover a suitcase full of meth from a tableting operation in Scarborough, Ontario.



Courtesy Sgt. Brent Hill

Cpl. Cathie Glenn

Counterfeit Viagra pills seized from a Mississauga, Ontario warehouse.

PRESCRIPTION FOR POISON

ONLINE TRAFFICKING OF TRUSTED DRUGS

By Sigrid Forberg

From clothing to car insurance, and furniture to food, the Internet has everything anyone could ever want. All they need is a valid credit card.

With the advent of online stores, shopping has been revolutionized. People never have to leave the comfort of their homes to get the job done.

But the convenience and anonymity of dealing through the Internet also appeals to the criminal element.

COST OF CONVENIENCE

One of the most troubling emerging trends is the sale of pharmaceutical drugs online.

Canada is currently the second largest user of pharmaceuticals in the world. Cpl. Luc Chicoine, the RCMP's national pharmaceutical and synthetic drug support co-ordinator, says our society has become so comfortable with taking pills that people underestimate or don't even perceive the danger of taking prescription drugs without consulting with a doctor.

"There's a misconception that pharmaceuticals are safer. That because they're supervised and regulated that there will be no harm," says Chicoine. "But when they're not being used to treat what they're intended for, they're not going to work the same way."

The problem with this is that the majority of pharmaceutical drugs sold online, especially without a prescription, are counterfeit.

These drugs, for the majority, are not made in labs, but often in bathtubs or warehouses in countries like India and China. And they often contain dangerous chemicals or substances as well as fillers like talcum.

In 2006, a 57-year-old woman in British Columbia died of cardiac arrhythmia caused by metal toxicity. She had been taking anti-anxiety drugs police believe she had purchased over the Internet.

"That is the type of stuff that is hitting our streets," says Chicoine. "And it's the right colour, the right stamp and packaging but it could be anything in it.

And anybody and everybody are buying these medications."

INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS

And it's a global issue. Four years ago, Interpol launched a new campaign called Operation Pangea. In 2011, Pangea brought more than 80 countries together to raise awareness about the sale of illegal medications online.

"The more we are unified, the better impact we'll have," says Aline Plançon, the manager of Interpol's medical products counterfeiting and pharmaceutical crime, which co-ordinates Operation Pangea. "And it also sends the message out to the criminals that the law enforcement communities are making progress."

Over a period of five days in late September, Pangea IV resulted in the confiscation of 2.5 million units of illicit and counterfeit medications, at an estimated value of $6.8 million USD.

Also, nearly 13,500 websites were shut down, 45,500 packages were inspected by regulators and customs authorities, of which almost 8,000 were seized and some 55 individuals are currently under investigation or under arrest for a variety of charges.

"A lot of countries have wanted to address this but they didn't quite know how," says Plançon. "If you start with ground enforcement and customs and join your knowledge with that of the health experts, there's so much you can do."

TAKING DOWN TRAFFICKERS

Co-operation between health and law enforcement agencies has proven successful in Canada.

In April 2011, in a random search, Health Canada in British Columbia (B.C.) came across a large box coming from China that contained approximately 11,000 suspected counterfeit erectile dysfunction pills.

The package, which was intended for Mississauga, Ontario, was given to the Vancouver RCMP, who tipped off the Greater Toronto Area federal enforcement section (FES). Once the intended recipient claimed the package, the section executed a search warrant of his warehouse.

More than 100,000 counterfeit Viagra and Cialis pills were seized, as well as counterfeit designer label clothing and accessories. The total seizure was valued at approximately $3 million to $5 million.

"This was our biggest seizure of pharmaceuticals," says Cpl. Cathie Glenn, the intake co-ordinator for the FES. "This warehouse had everything you could imagine. It was like the Costco of counterfeit items."

The case is still ongoing, but to date, 23 charges have been laid against the individual operating the warehouse and all of the items have been taken off the market.

For Chicoine, it all goes back to creating public awareness and cutting out the demand to decrease the supply.

"We're just trying to get the message out that, hey, if it looks too good to be true, it is," says Chicoine. "We want people to question, to confirm where these medications are coming from and to know what they're putting in their bodies." ■

LOSING IT ALL

THE WIDESPREAD EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE

By Sigrid Forberg

Addiction and drug use leaves a long trail of victims in its wake. It impacts the lives of not just users, but their families, neighbours and communities.

From losing all one's worldly possessions to a community's sense of hope to another's close relationships, drug abuse destroys everything within its reach.

GONE IN A FLASH

On December 5, 2009, Jack Prestage and his wife, daughter and granddaughter were sleeping in their home in Calgary, Alberta.

A snowstorm was raging outside when Prestage was woken at 3:45 am by his 11-year-old granddaughter, Carlie, who was scared of the noises outside her window. The sounds turned out to be a house fire, the result of faulty wiring in the marijuana grow operation next door.

The blaze destroyed five homes on their street.

"In just a minute, the house was totally consumed. If we hadn't got out when we did, we likely wouldn't have gotten out," says Prestage "We lost everything, but we were just so thankful that we didn't get hurt or lose any loved ones."

The Prestages didn't know their neighbour and weren't aware of his illicit activities. In the two years since, the couple have spoken out about the need to know who lives next door.

"If everybody knew the people on either side of them, you maybe could stop this from happening to you."

COSTS TO COMMUNITIES

But it doesn't take a raging fire to leave community members out in the cold. The Shubenacadie First Nations community in Nova Scotia has struggled with a serious drug problem in recent years.

Ron Knockwood, a band council member on the reserve, says the biggest issue right now is prescription drugs. A retired RCMP member, Knockwood says he has noticed an increase in crime over the past few years, as addicts go to greater lengths to feed their habits.

"The community is aware of the problem and it's just become a point of hopelessness here," says Knockwood. "If it's not an epidemic now, it's getting pretty close."

According to Knockwood, break and enters as well as thefts are on the rise in the community. There are even rumours of parents selling their children's new toys from Christmas and clothes to get money for drugs.

Although the community is making efforts to fight the drug abuse, Knockwood thinks all the federal, provincial and local players need to make more co-ordinated efforts because there is so much at stake.

"We have a lot of deaths in our community that you can directly relate back to drugs," says Knockwood. "They might not come out and say it, but when you're dying of 'natural causes' at 25, 30 years old, it's pretty obvious."

RUNNING TOWARDS RECOVERY

And while death is a very real possibility for some addicts, there are many painful losses that come before it.

Joshua Hambleton was 16 years old when he started drinking and using drugs. By 24, he had dropped out of university and college, lost all his close relationships and was in trouble with the law.

"I thought my friends were betraying me, but I had made it impossible for people to be in my life," says Hambleton. "I would basically burn every bridge in the area and then move on."

Realizing he needed help, Hambleton found out about Harvest House, an organization created to help rehabilitate young men, and set out on the path towards recovery.

He has been sober for seven years now. In 2008, he participated in the Gotta Run marathon training program, a partnership between Harvest House and a national run club and retailer.

Although he had participated in triathlons before, he was intimidated by the idea of running a marathon. But he compares preparing for it to his recovery. What once seemed insurmountable was easier once broken down into manageable chunks and taken on day-by-day.

Hambleton went on to complete his undergraduate and Master's degree in cognitive science, psychology and health administration. He has been married for more than two years.

"I'm still breaking down those walls and learning to let people in," says Hambleton. "But I've found in the end that you get what you give out and that the more I invest, the more I seem to get invested in." ▪

Faulty wiring in a marijuana grow operation caused a fire that destroyed five homes.

Courtesy Jack Prestage

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO CONTROL SYNTHETIC DRUG PRODUCTION?

THE PANELISTS

- **Sgt. Doug Culver, National Co-ordinator of Synthetic Drug Operations, RCMP**
- **Matt Nice, Drug Control Officer, United National Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/INCB Secretariat/Precursors Control Section**
- **Jos van der Vleuten, policy advisor/precursor expert, Expert Centre for Synthetic Drugs and Precursors, National Crime Squad/ FIOD, the Netherlands**

SGT. DOUG CULVER

The initial procurement of precursor and essential chemicals is the Achilles heel to synthetic drug production. Law enforcement agencies worldwide actively endeavor to find better ways to prevent licit chemicals, such as ephedrine, from reaching the hands of criminals where they are then diverted for illicit use. Law enforcement agencies realize that chemicals, precursors or other essential chemicals are the foundation of all clandestine drug laboratories, and if this foundation is removed, the operation ceases to exist.

Organized crime groups are well aware of this and use numerous and elaborate tactics to procure chemicals in a way not to arouse suspicion. Organized crime uses the Internet and global transport routes to their advantage. They target countries that are worldwide distributors of legitimate chemicals and countries that have weaker legislation for precursor controls. Precursor chemicals are so important to criminals that they will treat them as if they were illegal drugs by altering shipping manifests, outright smuggling, removing or altering labels, secreting them into storage lockers and passing them off to other criminals in back-alley trunk-to-trunk exchanges.

The RCMP operates a National Chemical Diversion Program for the sole purpose of preventing criminals from accessing chemicals used in the production of illicit drugs and works closely with industry partners such as the Canadian Association of Chemical Distributors. There are also ongoing projects within the United Nations and the International Narcotic Control Board that focus solely on chemical acquisitions by criminals whose purpose it is to produce illicit synthetic drugs.

Canada is not a major supplier of any of the chemicals listed in Schedule VI of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. This allows police and border agencies to concentrate their efforts on intercepting precursor drugs at the major import hubs within our country. Without chemicals, criminals are unable to produce synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). Working

in partnership with the legitimate chemical industry worldwide and with our global policing partners will have a positive impact on our efforts to curb the production of synthetic drugs in Canada.

MATT NICE

The manufacture of illicit drugs requires precursor chemicals — without precursors, synthetic drugs would not exist. Criminals obtain chemicals from legitimate industry, often by diverting them from international trade channels. The need for an international solution to prevent diversion of these chemicals was one of the reasons for the creation of the 1988 United Nations Convention *Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.*

The chemicals most commonly encountered in illicit drug laboratories are scheduled and controlled internationally under the 1988 Convention. Indeed, many countries now require prior notification and authorization for the import and export of such chemicals, and increasingly utilize the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) real-time Pre-Export Notification (PEN) On-line system for such communication. Nearly 20,000 notifications are now communicated through the system annually.

At a national level, most governments have also enacted or tightened existing precursor control laws and regulatory measures, and increased monitoring and awareness of the potential misuse of these chemicals. For example, several countries in Latin America have substantially reduced or prohibited altogether the importation of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, which can be used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. As a result of strengthened measures, obtaining precursors is now far more difficult and costly for criminals than before the international precursor control system entered into force some 20 years ago.

However, progress in chemical control has not been equal among all countries. Lower-income countries and territories, and in some cases entire regions, have lagged behind in the implementation of comprehensive precursor control.

The vulnerability of these countries requires governments to acknowledge that precursor control is a shared responsibility and the concerted effort among all governments is necessary to counter illicit drug manufacture and trafficking.

The last two decades have also demonstrated the resourcefulness of criminal organizations as they adapt to circumvent regulatory and law enforcement pressure. Criminals increasingly obtain new made-to-order chemicals outside of international control to continue illicit synthetic drug manufacture. Reactive regulation and scheduling of individual substances simply cannot keep pace with the rapid emergence of new precursors.

Therefore, a flexible approach, in partnership with legitimate industry, is crucial in identifying suspicious chemical orders and preventing diversion of new precursors. Continuing and reinforcing international partnerships and co-operation in gathering and sharing of real-time strategic intelligence remains key in combating international trafficking.

In addition to the aforementioned measures, legislation must allow for the investigation and prosecution of incidents that involve new precursors — not under control — when such chemicals are intended for use in illicit drug manufacture. Sanctions involving new chemicals must go beyond administrative fines and be proportionate to the type and amount of illicit substance for which manufacture was intended.

Regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies and relevant industry all play an equally vital role in understanding the dynamics and complexities of modern-day chemical trafficking and illicit drug manufacture. They also play a role in identifying weaknesses in the domestic, and ultimately international, control system and in devising adequate solutions.

JOS VAN DER VLEUTEN

I'll answer this question first by saying there is no synthetic drug production without chemicals.

Looking at the problem of synthetic drug production from a chemical point of view does not mean that we should disregard other ways to control and reduce synthetic drug production. Increasing political awareness and commitment, co-operating with scientists, and seizing and confiscating the assets of this kind of crime are all important to success. It's also important to have an eye on the demand side of synthetic drug use and production because there will be no production without demand. Reducing demand through prevention and education (ideally at an early age) is an absolute necessity.

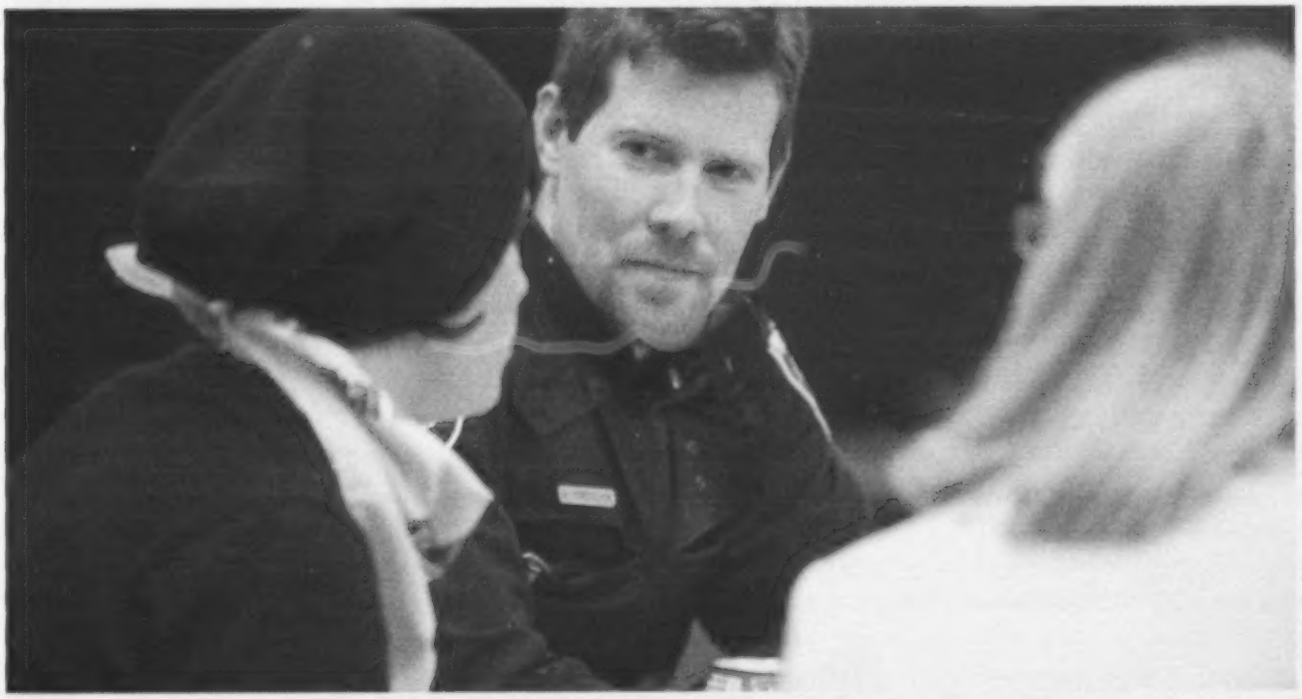
But I'll focus on chemicals and the supply side of synthetic drug production. If law enforcement agencies are able to keep chemicals out of the hands of criminals, both the production and the trade and use of these substances can be prevented. Prevention is always better than a cure.

Two main categories of chemicals are used for synthetic drug production: key-precursors and essential chemical substances. Well-known key-precursors such as P2P, MDP2P and ephedrines are produced in very few countries worldwide, mainly in South and East Asia. These key-precursors are usually smuggled or diverted from the source countries into synthetic drug production countries. Essential chemical substances, such as solvents and acids, are often produced in the synthetic drug production countries/states themselves or in neighbouring countries, and can often be easily obtained through middle- and small-scale local industries and enterprises.

This raises two questions: how do we combat smuggling and diversion of precursors, and how do we prevent the acquisition of chemical substances through industries and enterprises.

Smuggling and diversion has national and international implications. At the national and international level, direct contacts are needed among law enforcement officers, regulatory agencies, border control and private industry with the goal of accelerating information exchange that is vital in preventing precursor smuggling and diversion. Mutual trust and co-operation between these players is the key to success. Co-operating with governments in South and East Asia can be made easier with the help of international liaison officers who are familiar with (political) sensitivities and who have a network of law enforcement contacts.

Middle- and small-scale local industries and enterprises should become partners of law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Industries and enterprises on one side and governmental bodies on the other should know each other, know how to best contact one another and know how to co-operate in the most effective way. Industries and enterprises should also be reminded of their obligation to report suspected transactions with chemicals, and law enforcement agencies should be able to guarantee a swift follow-up and at the same time protect the identities of individual enterprises. ■



Bryan McNally, OPS Imaging Service Unit

OPS Cst. Mark Tereschuk listens to feedback from a young person during a Let's Chat session with Ottawa Police. The Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program is one initiative designed to reduce recidivism among high-risk youth.

YOUTH INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION

THE OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE APPROACH TO CRIME REDUCTION

By S/Sgt Mark Houldsworth, Ottawa Police Service and Tom Scholberg, Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program

Youth crime is a commonly echoed concern by communities across Canada and research reveals that the majority of young people commit minor offences, including drug use, during adolescence. However, many of these offences do not make it to the attention of police officers and many of the offenders do not continue committing criminal acts beyond adolescence.

The truth is that only a small percentage of higher-risk youth are responsible for a disproportionate amount of youth crime.

A short-term strategy for reducing crime targets these prolific young offenders with specific enforcement and suppression activities. However, another effective and longer-term solution aimed at reducing crime involves responding to the needs of youth who are at risk of offending or re-offending through early identification and intervention before they become prolific offenders.

The Young Offenders Act (YOA) and subsequently and in more detail the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), outlined a need to divert young people wherever possible from the formal court system.

COMMUNITY-BASED MODEL

Since the early 1990s, long before the YCJA was enacted, the Ottawa Police Service's (OPS) youth section under the direction of S/Sgt Shamus Hall and Youth Intervention Co-ordinator Louise Logue spearheaded a philosophical approach to addressing youth crime through community-based referrals and resorting to the criminal court process only as a last resort. This fundamental change in how the OPS addressed youth crime resulted in increased community partnerships and increased early-intervention opportunities for youth who were in conflict with the law.

At the time, there was no formal process in place to ensure that all OPS youth cases in which a young person was warned, were reviewed or screened by police who then provided consistent, timely and meaningful referrals to youth-serving agencies in the community. The goal of referring a young person to any agency is to address the incident, the needs of the victim and the risk/needs of that person. Not all cases where a young person is warned need to be referred to a youth-serving agency for follow-up, but many do. As well, the OPS wanted one such agency to manage the pre-charge diversion referrals to ensure a consistent, co-ordinated approach.

In 2006, the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club's (OBBC) Executive Director Scott Bradford agreed to support and champion the creation of the Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program (OCYDP), with funding from the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The OCYDP then began to receive pre-charge diversion referrals from the OPS and post-charge diversion referrals from the crown attorney.

Today, the OPS youth section oversees the pre-charge diversion process for the OPS. Pre-charge diversions require a consistent approach by the front-line officers, investigators and school resource officers (SRO). When a young person is warned under the YCJA, all youth officers use a standardized warning template.

This template guides the officer through a decision-making process to ensure this consistent police response.

Youth officers review all reports submitted by both patrol officers and investigators where a youth is warned, contact the parents or legal guardians and make appropriate referrals to the OCYDP.

The SROs also make direct referrals to the OCYDP for cases they are dealing with at their assigned schools.

Additionally, the SROs have been trained to administer the Youth Service Level-Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI) Screening Version for the cases referred to the OCYDP. This tool helps them identify criminogenic risk factors known to fuel recidivism rates. Following the officer's recommendation and the consent of the young person or their family, the file is referred to the OCYDP.

REDUCING RECIDIVISM

The goal of the OCYDP is to reduce recidivism. The program holds young people accountable for their actions, reduces risk factors associated with youth crime and provides a timely response to incidents in the community. The program uses the Risk/Need/Responsivity (RNR) approach, which aims to match the level of intervention with the risk level of the young person. This approach maintains that treatment is more effective when it is applied in the community and when it considers an offender's risk level, criminogenic needs and responsivity (the offender's ability to learn from the intervention).

In order to accurately assess the risk of reoffending, the OCYDP caseworker meets with the young person and legal guardian for an assessment.

This meeting typically lasts two to two and a half hours, during which time the caseworker assesses the young person using two tools: the full version of the YLS/CMI and the *How I Think Questionnaire*. While no two interviews are alike, asking a broad range of questions ensures that all life domains are covered, including family and friend relations, school, employment, addictions, responsibility taking and other personality traits.

By identifying the broader risk of re-offending, the assessment helps the caseworker develop an individual action plan for the young person. Input from the legal guardian is essential to understand the young person's risk factors, needs and strengths.

Based on the assessment and any other information available, the caseworker prioritizes the young person's needs and develops a plan. During a second meeting, the plan is presented and agreed upon.

It usually includes one to three goals that the young person must complete in order to be successful. These goals often include participating in counselling, violence prevention groups, addiction counselling, community service, psycho-educational assessments and employment support. All of the services (some free, some fee-for service) are offered by third-party agencies that are contracted to provide timely service to the young person.

When developing the plan, the caseworker takes social factors into account and removes as many barriers to success as possible (geographic location, travel constraints). The caseworker also ensures that the style and intensity of the service matches the overall risk level. For example, it's imperative that low-risk youth are not placed in a group with high-risk youth.

Once the young person agrees to the plan, the caseworker deals with any problems that arise between the youth and the service provider, and monitors the young person's progress throughout the length of the three-to-four-month program. Once finished, the caseworker provides a compliance report to either the police or the crown attorney's office outlining whether or not the young person has completed the requirements.

Dealing with youth who are in conflict with the law in their own communities, matching interventions to risk level and reducing risk factors is an effective and cost-effective way to deal with youth crime. ■

THE RURAL APPROACH TO YOUTH DIVERSION

The RCMP in New Brunswick have adopted a pre-charge intervention and diversion process to ensure that the right youth get to the right services at the right time.

Influenced by Ottawa Police Service's successful youth diversion model, the RCMP in New Brunswick have responded to the challenges that are unique to largely rural populations, such as a lack of available services, transportation issues and large geographic service areas.

Utilizing the Risk/Need/Responsivity (RNR) approach, the model ensures that front-line police officers are referring low to moderate risk youth for diversion. The officer or, in some cases, an intervention and diversion team made up of community programs officers and uniformed crime prevention personnel, conduct a brief screening for risk factors associated with the young person's offending behaviour using an evidence-based screening tool.

The young person is then referred to a multidisciplinary youth intervention and diversion committee consisting of key community partners such as child welfare social workers, addictions and mental health clinicians, probation officers, educators and other community service providers. RCMP New Brunswick's community programs officers have played a key role in ensuring that each district in the province has such a committee in place. These committees work in partnership with the community programs officer to develop appropriate intervention plans to address areas of greatest need. The committee completes in-depth, multi-dimensional assessments using evidence-based assessment tools like the *YLS/CMI*, the *How I Think Questionnaire* and the *Child Behavior Checklist*.

Like the OCYDP, this approach to intervention planning considers how the intervention should be delivered, matching the young person's individual strengths, interests, learning style, cognitive ability and circumstances to the services. Collaborative planning with community service providers has the added benefit of avoiding unnecessary duplication in service delivery and efficiently pooling the often scarce resources to make available other evidence-based programs.

Getting the right youth to the right services at the right time makes our communities safer by reducing youth recidivism and decreasing the load on an overburdened and costly criminal justice system.

DRUG SMUGGLING AT TORONTO PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

By Sgt. Michele Paradis, Toronto Airport Detachment, Federal Enforcement Section

It's 12:20 a.m. and a call has just come in from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) that they have a person in custody. And so starts most calls for members at the RCMP's Toronto Airport Detachment (TAD).

While the RCMP are not the police of jurisdiction within the airport, those working in this 24/7 detachment are required to answer calls at all hours from partner agencies.

Many of these calls are drug related. In 2011, there were more than 175 arrest-and-charge drug files with most leading to sentences of 2 to 15 years in federal prison.

Tonight's call is for a woman travelling from the Caribbean who was caught with two kilograms of cocaine stuffed in her suitcase. She had accepted a "free trip" from one of the local men in her neighbourhood and, in return, was expected to bring the cocaine to Canada. Once in Canada, she was to hand over the drugs to one of his associates.

This woman is merely the carrier and has little or no information on the complex drug organization that paid her way. She will be interviewed by our members, charged and processed. Her life will be forever marked by her "free trip."

This happens regularly at the airport, and more attempts are being made to inform the public about the dangers posed by illicit narcotics that are making their way through our ports and into our communities. Vast networks exist to facilitate the movement of drugs — from the baggage handler in a source country who places the contraband into an aircraft to the employees who remove the luggage at its end location.

Toronto will not be the final destination for these products. Narcotics will make their way into Canadian cities and suburbs, and abroad. And while the purity of products differ from one shipment to the next, one thing is virtually guaranteed: the cocaine and heroin will have additions made to them to increase their volume so the drugs can be sold in greater amounts.

RCMP Toronto Airport Detachment

Khat, a narcotic from mid-Africa, is turning up with regularity at the Toronto Pearson International Airport.

UNCOVERING CORRUPTION

Toronto Pearson International Airport (TPIA) is the largest in Canada and one of the busiest in North America. Fifty thousand people are employed at TPIA and this brings an associated criminal element looking to take advantage of the complexities of international travel. Internal corruption within the airport environment is prevalent. TAD addresses this criminal activity with two project teams and two response teams.

The response teams attend the calls from partner agencies such as the call received today but are also responsible for working up a file for the project teams. They identify trends in the seizures, methods of concealment and source development to take a file to the next level of investigation.

Once targets have been identified, the project teams begin a more in-depth investigation. Suspects have often worked together for many years and are very wary of newcomers. As traditional police techniques such as undercover operations pose a challenge, members at TAD become adept at cultivating sources.

With the night shift coming to a close, members on the day shift prepare to take over. It won't be long before the next call comes in. A quick look in the TAD vault offers proof of this continuous cycle. Every type of drug can be found in every size and shape. Ketamine, ecstasy and steroid seizures are on the rise while cocaine, heroin, marijuana and hashish continue to be a problem.

Added to the mix is Khat, a narcotic from mid-Africa that has a shelf life of less than three days. White phosphorous, a highly unstable chemical used as a precursor in the manufacture of synthetic drugs, has also been seized at TPIA.

Keeping on top of the newest illicit products and catching smugglers who attempt to bring drugs into Canada is all in a day's work for this busy detachment. ◆

BALANCING HEALTH AND SAFETY

VANCOUVER'S SUPERVISED INJECTION SITE

By Insp. Scott Thompson, Vancouver Police Department

On September 30, 2011 the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruled that Vancouver's supervised injection site (SIS) or Insite, would remain open and ordered the federal minister of health to grant an immediate exemption under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. This facility is located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, the historical epicentre for drug abuse in Vancouver and B.C's Lower Mainland.

The ruling marked the end of a journey that started on September 15, 2003, in Vancouver and has opened the door for similar facilities to be opened across Canada. While some police officers philosophically disagree with the concept of supervised injection in a health facility, the SCC ruling clearly supports this model. As the first police organization in North America to deal with a SIS, the experience of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) may prove useful to other police services considering how to respond to a proposed SIS in their jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

In early 2002 the executive and management of the VPD discussed what our position should be with respect to a SIS as the Vancouver Police Board supported the concept. The VPD adopted a two-prong position. Firstly, the VPD should be careful when engaging in any debate regarding public health issues or related research as our expertise is in policing, not health. Secondly, the VPD needed to be at the table regardless of whether we supported the concept of the SIS or not. More recently the VPD has stated that its primary interest and mandate around the SIS has always been and remains public safety, not public health.

It was clear that the success or failure of the SIS would be determined in part by the co-operation of the police.

While some may suggest that anyone entering the SIS should be searched for illicit drugs, the reality is that not everyone who enters the site is there to inject illicit substances. The SIS is also an accessible-to-all, street-based health facility that provides drug and alcohol counselling and referrals to other services. The VPD was also aware that searching anyone entering the SIS without articulable cause would be unreasonable and unlawful.

THE POLICING MODEL

During the first year of operation, the VPD assigned a dedicated team of eight beat members to liaise with the SIS and proactively deal with any policing issues at or near the site.

Procedures were agreed upon that regulated police entry into the SIS as it was not a public facility.

These included "fresh pursuit" so that the SIS did not become a safe haven for criminals, emergency access for critical incidents, criminal investigations, the securing of evidence and potential requests by SIS management to have police remove unruly and disruptive clients through the assault by trespass provisions of the *Criminal Code*. The VPD and health authority also agreed to an informal resolution process that addressed any conflicts or friction between SIS staff and police, and helped foster a working relationship.

Outside the SIS, the VPD faced its greater policing challenge. While the VPD supported the SIS's public health objectives of reducing drug overdose deaths and the transmission of HIV, this had to be balanced

One of the prepping rigs at the supervised injection site in Vancouver, B.C.

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

with ensuring that street disorder, violent behaviours and unlawful activities were kept under control near the facility.

This was achieved through the operational plan, which stated that "police members have a broad range of discretion when dealing with drug use and drug possession in the City of Vancouver. This discretion includes options such as seizure of the drug, and/or arrest and charging of the person(s)." Further, "when dealing with an intravenous drug user found using drugs within a four block radius of the SIS ... it is recommended that our members direct the drug user to attend the SIS to avoid a future contact with the police."

OUTCOMES

One surprising initial outcome was that VPD members actually escorted users to the SIS and have continued to refer users to the site over the years.

The VPD noted fewer drug users "shooting up" within one to two blocks of the SIS although police continue to encounter users publicly injecting right behind the site and nearby. Whereas research has pointed to a decline in street disorder, the VPD anecdotally suggests the impact on disorder was neutral while drug trafficking and local crime did not increase.

The police calls for service at the SIS were also not significant. From a public health perspective, the SIS has been very successful and of course the SCC has recently accepted and ruled on this evidence.

LESSONS LEARNED

Being part of the project team, having input at the planning stage and developing a solid operational plan and orientation for police members and SIS staff with clear expectations, was crucial for the VPD.

Having a dedicated police team and a conflict resolution model in place was also important. Given the SCC's ruling, the VPD's experience will hopefully assist other police services in Canada should a SIS be considered in their jurisdiction. ▪

Insp. Scott Thompson was part of the SIS project team in 2003. He developed and implemented the VPD's policing and operational plans as well as orientation for police and SIS staff. He is a district commander and the VPD's drug policy co-ordinator.

OXYCONTIN OUTBREAK

CORNWALL TASK FORCE TACKLES PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROBLEM

By Detective Staff Sergeant Shawn White, Criminal Investigation Branch, Cornwall Community Police Service

OxyContin — who would have imagined that such a tiny pill could be so dangerous to the health and safety of Canadians, and pose such a challenge to police.

OxyContin is a highly effective prescription pain medication that comes in tablets of 5 to 80 milligrams. Its active ingredient is oxycodone, which produces a euphoric effect and is highly addictive.

What makes it so hazardous is the misconception that the pills can't hurt you because they are prescribed by doctors. In fact, this prescription opiate has the same properties as heroin and is commonly referred to on the street as "hillbilly heroin." Abusing and misusing it is extremely dangerous and can result in death.

In the early stages, the user often chases the high, sometimes using more and more of the drug.

After a while, the drug loses its effect altogether and the addict continues to use merely to avoid the painful withdrawal symptoms.

The challenge for police is that unlike marijuana and cocaine, people can legally possess this and similar drugs if they have a prescription.

But the reality is some people illegally obtain these drugs for the purpose of selling them. Police may not be able to charge someone for possession unless they catch them in the act of trafficking.

CORNWALL SITUATION

In 2008, the drug began to turn up on the streets of Cornwall, Ontario, a city of just under 50,000 people. The Cornwall Community Police Service's street crime unit started making more and more street-level seizures of OxyContin — it was second only to marijuana as the drug of choice by illegal drug users.

There was also a significant increase in the number of break and enters. The vast majority of arrested offenders indicated that they committed these crimes to sustain their addiction.

What was additionally disturbing to police was a dangerous teen activity called "Smartie parties." At these parties, teens would bring prescription medications they had taken from their parent's medicine cabinets, dump all the pills in a bowl and pass the bowl around.

They would then pop these pills, not knowing what they were taking.

The most popular drugs were prescription opiates like OxyContin. These parties gave teens the impression that taking these drugs for recreational purposes was safe, but the opposite was true. Some later became addicted to the drugs.

And the tragedies didn't end there. Shortly after the rise in prescription drug abuse in Cornwall came the deaths. Between April 2008 and April 2010, police investigated seven cases in which the cause of death was related to the abuse of oxycodone or another prescription opiate, hydromorphone. The predominantly male victims were between 19 and 58 years of age.

One significant development that police noticed in the community was the emer-

gence of a new type of addict: white-collar professionals, including health care workers. These non-stereotypical addicts had been prescribed an oxycodone-based drug by their physician for an injury or chronic pain, and later became dependant.

Police in Cornwall investigated cases of people stealing and forging prescription pads to get their fix.

By 2009, prescription drug abuse was spreading beyond Cornwall and into other Ontario communities.

The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey reported that 18 per cent of grade 7 to 12 students in Ontario, almost one in five, reported taking a prescription opiate for a non-medical purpose. Ottawa was now experiencing some 70 pharmacy robberies a year; crimes that were almost unheard of before 2009.

Peterborough Police reported a significant increase in the number of sex trade workers in the city. In many cases, these women were turning to prostitution to support their addictions.

PROFIT-DRIVEN

Drug dealers favour OxyContin because it's easy to get and profitable. For example, someone might see a doctor complaining of a sore back and the doctor might prescribe 100 tablets of an oxycodone-based drug at 40 milligrams per tablet. If that person is on the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan, they will pay $3 to fill the prescription. They can, in turn, sell their prescription on the street for $40 a tablet for a profit of $3,997, and little risk of getting caught.

And with double doctoring so common, a dealer can see several different doctors and receive a prescription from each one of them. This ability to "doctor shop" in Ontario has earned the province the dubious title of OxyContin Capital of Canada.

Last year, the Ontario Government moved to change this by passing the *Narcotic Safety Awareness Act*, which came into effect Nov. 1, 2011. It's similar to legislation in other provinces that requires doctors and pharmacies to submit to a central database information on what prescriptions they're issuing and to whom.

This makes it difficult for addicts to get the same drugs at the same time from different doctors.

By 2009, most Ontario communities were seeing an increase in oxycodone-based drug abuse. The problem was becoming so prevalent, that Public Safety Canada held a national workshop on the illicit use of pharmaceuticals as a collective attempt to find solutions.

The Cornwall Police were eager to tackle the problem and contacted the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, who had witnessed an OxyContin epidemic in Newfoundland in 2004. Police in Newfoundland were keen to share their experiences with Cornwall and let them know what to expect.

Cornwall police decided the best way to combat its problem was with a community approach.

Under the direction of the regional doctor of health, Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, the police service helped establish an OxyContin Task Force in Cornwall.

The task force consisted of Corwnall police, Ontario Provincial Police and occasionally the RCMP, as well as local doctors, pharmacists, health care providers, social workers and teachers.

The task force takes a three-pronged approach to the problem by focusing on prevention, intervention and suppression.

PREVENTION

Prevention is achieved primarily through education but involves more than just informing the public on the dangers of prescription drugs. It includes working with doctors on the dangers of over prescribing or prescribing negligently. The task force organized a one-day symposium in September 2009 for doctors in the counties of Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, making them aware of the dangers of these medications and suggesting pain management alternatives.

Furthermore, whenever the Cornwall Police drug unit makes a seizure from a dealer, it notifies the doctor who prescribed the medication. This reduces the likelihood that the doctor will prescribe future supplies to this drug dealer. Doctors who continue to prescribe irresponsibly are reported to the College of Physicians and Surgeons for reprimand.

The Task Force is exploring new initiatives to assist in prevention. These include approaching the Ontario Ministry of Education to have drug awareness taught as part of the school curriculum for students no later than grade six.

INTERVENTION

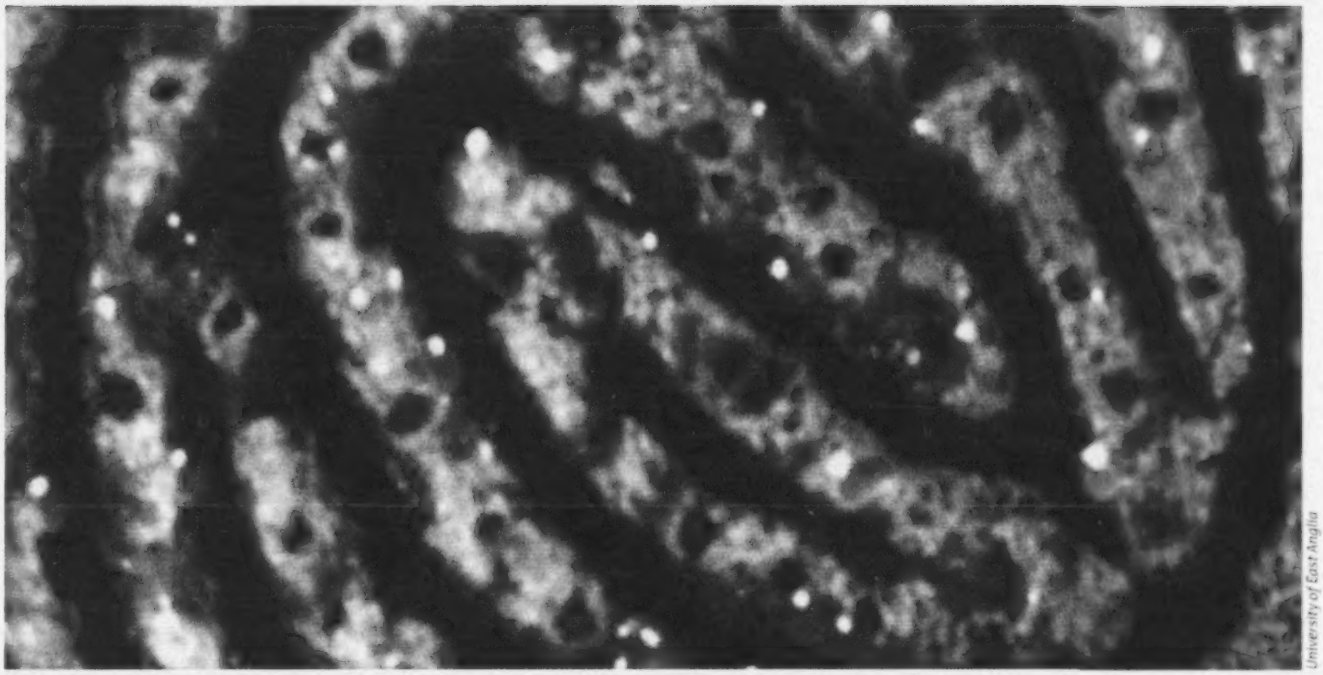
Every day, police come into contact with people who suffer from addictions yet seldom do they try to assist them. Cornwall police officers received training on addiction and how to be more effective in referring people to addiction services. Police also developed closer relationships with addiction treatment services in the area. The earlier and more effective the intervention, the sooner people can deal with their addictions and return to a functional life. Intervention will also reduce the likelihood they will engage in criminal activity.

SUPPRESSION

Police must continue to target prescription opiate dealers. Collaborating with the medical community can help reduce over prescribing of prescription opiates. While this may require changes to Ontario's *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, it would make it easier for doctors to share information with police to tackle the problem.

OxyContin abuse poses a tremendous threat to the safety of Canadians. Given the dynamics of this dilemma, police must take a leadership role in working with their community partners to overcome this challenge. ■

***Editor's note:** In an effort to discourage the abuse of OxyContin, as of Feb. 29, 2012, the painkiller was removed from Canadian pharmacies and replaced with OxyNEO, which the manufacturer claims is more difficult to tamper with to extract for illicit purposes. While many welcome the move, this reformulated version has not been shown to reduce prescription narcotic addiction and abuse.*



University of East Anglia

Close-up results of a positive test. A change in colour shows detection of the drug metabolite and can be seen in direct association with the sweat pores that comprise the fingerprint pattern.

DRUG DETECTION FROM FINGERPRINTS

NEW TECHNOLOGY TESTS DRUG METABOLITES IN SWEAT

Dr. Paul Yates, Intelligent Fingerprinting Ltd, Norwich, U.K.

The effects of illegal drug use on society are wide ranging and increasingly well documented. In addition to the direct link between drug abuse and violent crime, it's also associated with many wider social problems and impacts the workplace through loss of productivity and increased risk of accidents.

Notwithstanding the less tangible damage that drug use causes to society, the actual costs in terms of stolen property, investigating and prosecuting drug-related crime, loss of workplace productivity, and treating and rehabilitating drug users, are estimated in the many billions of dollars per year.

As a result, testing individuals suspected of drug abuse has become a routine part of policing, the workplace, drug treatment and rehabilitation, with many different testing methods being available.

Drug testing from samples of body fluids such as blood, urine and more recently saliva are the most commonly employed, with hair analysis also being occasionally used when a longer term indication of drug misuse is of interest.

All of these tests have drawbacks associated with them including the need to collect invasive samples, the biohazard risk, cross reactivity to other substances in the sample, or the requirement for frozen or cold sample transport and storage. It's also crucial to put in place collection and analysis procedures that prevent tampering of the tests and ensure a watertight chain of evidence continuity should the tests results be needed for evidential purposes.

INTELLIGENT FINGERPRINTING

Researchers led by Professor David Russell at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, United Kingdom, have developed a technique that can detect drug metabolites from the sweat deposited within a fingerprint, while at the same time allowing high-definition imaging of the fingerprint itself.

Metabolites are chemicals that are produced in the body as the result of normal metabolic processes, and can be used to determine what substances a person has ingested or come into intimate contact with. The Intelligent Fingerprinting technique allows the non-invasive collection and analysis of fingerprints with a mobile hand-held device in only a matter of minutes, needs no sample preparation or specialist handling, presents no biohazards and because of the ability to image the fingerprint of the sample donor, has an inbuilt chain of evidence continuity.

The method works by using sub-millimetre sized nanoparticles that are coated with antibody chemicals and a fluorescent coloured dye. The nanoparticles (made of either iron oxide or gold) are mixed into water and applied to the surface of the fingerprint where the antibodies react with their target drug metabolites, thereby binding the nanoparticles and fluorescent dye to the fingerprint itself.

The target drug metabolite can be detected through the observed colour change, and developing the high-definition fingerprint image can be used for identification purposes using conventional comparison procedures.

Different antibodies are used to target

the metabolites of different drugs, and so far the researchers have been able to detect the following drugs of abuse:

- Benzoylecgonine (cocaine metabolite)
- Ethylidine Dimethyl Diphenylpyrrolidine (methadone metabolite)
- Morphine (heroin metabolite)
- Tetrahydrocannabinol (the main psychoactive substance found in a cannabis plant)

In addition, the technique has also been used to detect cotinine — the metabolite of nicotine — and cortisol, a hormone present in fingerprint sweat that is related to the stress levels of individual being tested.

Research is underway to broaden the number of drugs that can be tested to see if the technique can be used to identify individuals who might have had recent intimate contact with explosives.

DEALING WITH CONTAMINATION

Like other drug-testing techniques, the use of sweat has been fallible to producing a positive result by innocent contamination, either by touching a surface coated with the drug itself or by transferring someone else's sweat from a handshake or other contact.

The Intelligent Fingerprinting technique has built-in features that deal with these challenges. Firstly, the technique works by detecting metabolites of the target drugs, thereby directly showing evidence of the body's ingestion of the drug. This means that a positive result can't be obtained from contamination of the fingerprint by touching a surface coated with the parent drug itself.

Secondly, the metabolites are detected in direct association with the sweat pores themselves, thereby uniquely linking the positive result to the owner of the fingerprint itself. Transferring sweat-containing drug metabolites from another person would not give this direct link, making this technique immune from the problems of secondary transfer of metabolite contamination.

POLICING

The potential uses of the Intelligent Fingerprinting technique within policing include the following:

- Provision of intelligence from latent crime-scene fingerprints to help build an offender profile, particularly in major and critical incidents
- Rapid and easy determination of the presence of banned substances to corroborate an allegation of impaired driving as part of roadside screening
- Test on arrest within police custody procedures to both corroborate allegations of drug use and to inform health and safety issues around detention of arrestees

In addition to these, it's possible that this detection technique could be used as a fingerprint enhancement technique in its own right.

A prototype of the Intelligent Fingerprinting hand-held sample collection and analysis device. The production version of this mobile device is scheduled for release at the end of 2012.

University of East Anglia

BORDER CONTROL AND NATIONAL SECURITY

In light of recent terrorist attacks, air and seaport security has become a primary focus for improvement. New passenger-screening techniques have been developed to assist in the detection of explosive devices and other weapons, but there's an increasing need to carry out targeted enhanced screening as well.

This new technique combines rapid fingerprint biometric identification along with the metabolite analysis techniques that could be routinely incorporated into boarding procedures to identify individuals who might have had recent contact with explosives, or who might be concealing an explosive device in their bodies.

INSTITUTIONAL TESTING

Routine screening for drug abuse is often mandatory for prison populations, the military and commercial companies with legislated health and safety requirements for a drug-free workplace.

Current testing systems often have restrictions on their usefulness because of the need to collect invasive and hazardous samples, the problems associated with maintaining a secure chain of evidence, or the ability of the tested individual to cheat the system through substituting someone else's sample for their own.

This process offers a new testing mechanism that tackles all of these problems. With the development of the hand-held testing device, it can also provide a mobile testing solution to determine whether someone is fit to work.

MOBILE ANALYSIS

In addition to the sample collection and analysis kit, Intelligent Fingerprinting has developed a prototype hand-held sample collection and analysis device. This portable device uses novel micro-fluidics and optics that can allow the analysis for drugs of abuse and the imaging of the donor's fingerprints in a matter of minutes using a disposable sample-analysis cartridge.

The use of different cartridges enables testing for drugs specific to the particular operational requirement, and researchers are developing a way to allow the fingerprint image to be exported in a digital format to enable searching against fingerprint databases for identification purposes. ■

UNDERSTANDING DRUG ADDICTION

HOW A POLICE OFFICER'S ACTIONS CAN SAVE A LIFE

By Assistant Chief Michael Bosse, Lexington Division of Police, Kentucky

As a young patrolman working the beat 25 years ago, I recall a routine traffic stop that started out noticeably different.

The driver pulled over, got out of the car and frantically walked to a nearby house where he began banging on the door as if neither I nor my marked police cruiser existed. A brief detention quickly led me to arrest him, which resulted in a significant struggle that ultimately turned into an emergency room visit for both of us.

I suspected very early that the man's bizarre behaviour was drug related.

While in the emergency room — only a couple of curtains from the man I had just arrested — a very large man similar in appearance to the defendant asked to talk to me.

It was the defendant's father who wished to apologize to me.

I vividly recall his statement "I am so sorry for this. That is not how I raised my son and this is not the son I have known for 25 years." He explained with visible anguish how his son had started using crack cocaine six months earlier and was now a very different person.

When he shook my hand, I had an instant image of my own father, whose hands were just as large and always rough from hard work in construction.

Two days later at the arraignment, I was approached by a prosecutor who I respected. She described the following dilemma: the defendant's father (the man from the hospital) had shown her a receipt confirming he had paid $2,000 to reserve a bed in a drug treatment facility for his son.

But to reserve the bed, the placement had to be made immediately or the father would lose a substantial portion of his down payment.

I scanned the courtroom and easily found the father because of his size.

He was dressed in worn and faded clothes, the clothes of a man who worked hard for a living. The situation was unusual because I was the only officer at the prosecutor's table at that time.

My injuries were scrapes and bruises, nothing worse than I had received while at the academy. After some thought, I agreed and the prosecutor requested probation if the defendant entered the treatment.

I left the courtroom that day not knowing the results of my decision.

LIFE-SAVING DECISION

Ten years later, this same defendant recognized me walking out of my barber shop and called to me: "Officer Bosse?" My hesitant response of "yes" prompted his next statement: "You saved my life!" Still not recognizing the man, I responded with something like: "Gee, I usually remember that kind of thing." Once he explained, I recalled the entire encounter.

He told me that he had been gainfully employed for the past eight years, was a youth minister in his church, and was married and raising his own sons.

We talked for an hour. That was the first of hundreds of such conversations I have had with addicts over the years.

It took 10 years and a unique set of circumstances for me to understand the significance of that day in court and how it affected my development as a police officer.

First, I don't know if I would have made the same decision had my fellow officers been at that prosecutor's table.

It wasn't within the police culture to give someone who had fought with an officer that kind of a break.

I hope I would have followed what my heart was telling me to do but, even with the powerful and uncanny encounter I had with the defendant's father, I question what I would have done.

The culture within policing is just that strong of an influence especially for young officers who want and need to be accepted by their peers.

Second, while I was always intrigued by the idea that drug addiction could change a person so dramatically, I never really understood why.

My first real, in-depth and personal conversation with an addict occurred in that parking lot outside my barber shop.

By this time, I had worked many years as a sergeant in a narcotics unit reviewing and executing over 600 narcotic search warrants, conducting or reviewing more than 2,000 narcotic investigations and completing one of the largest drug sweeps in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, which netted more than 183 defendants.

Despite all my experience in narcotics and police work in general, I could not provide a reasonable explanation as to why drug addiction so deeply changes lives.

The truth is that few of us in law enforcement can.

UNDERSTANDING HOW ADDICTS BEHAVE

Working with Kentucky's drug courts and drug courts throughout the nation gave me the chance to learn the science of what goes on in the brain of an addict.

But more importantly I was in a unique position to take that science, combine it with what the addicts described and apply it to the dynamics of the crimes they committed.

AN ADDICT'S POOR DECISION-MAKING LEADS TO HIGHER THAN NORMAL LEVELS OF CONFLICT WITH OTHERS. RESPONDING OFFICERS MAY NEED TO TAKE MORE TIME OR USE MORE STEPS TO TRULY RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

Even in the height of their addiction, most addicts are very aware of the consequences of their behaviour. They can describe what they know to be right; they just don't act on it.

For instance, the man I had arrested at the door of that house later described the panic that consumed him at the moment he thought he would be arrested, but not because he was afraid of jail.

Even though he had never been arrested before, his greatest concern at that moment was that he wouldn't be able to get his next rock of crack cocaine.

The disconnect occurs with their judg-

ment and is similar to what we see in some rare brain injuries.

In the case of the addict, the condition does not justify the behaviour.

However, it does teach us what we can and cannot realistically expect of their actions.

Understanding this phenomenon has huge implications in how we police this unique population. We can't always expect a person suffering from addiction to prioritize properly when given directions or to follow multiple steps to correct the problems that police are called to resolve.

An addict's poor decision-making leads to higher than normal levels of conflict with others. Responding officers may need to take more time or use more steps to truly resolve the problem.

Walking the addict through the steps is more likely to prevent an escalation and getting called back to the same problem later.

Even our legislators can benefit from knowing more about addiction. Passing laws that require a citation to be issued instead of an arrest is based on the logical assumption that once caught, an individual will stop the behaviour that got them in trouble.

However, in the case of an addict who is stealing to support his or her addiction, that behaviour will not stop — even after being caught by police and cited. An arrest, on the other hand, removes the addict from the immediate problem (stealing property).

Also, forced withdrawal with medical supervision is better than feeding an addiction that will only get worse.

After 29 years of policing, I don't apologize for my conservative views on crime and punishment. I'm sure it comes from the time I've spent with the victims of crimes over the years.

By the same token, my understanding of addiction has helped me realize the potential that exists in those who suffer from addiction.

In our careers, we never really know how often we save a life by responding to a call and resolving an issue before it gets out of hand.

Are there other times we could "save a life" but don't ever recognize that moment? I could have spent my whole career just skimming the surface of this issue but now I spend a lot of time teaching police officers about addiction and letting them decide. ▪

A graduate of the FBI academy, Assistant Chief Bosse holds a Bachelor of Science degree in police administration and has 29 years of policing experience. He is a member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' law enforcement committee.

Police can't always expect a person suffering from addiction to prioritize properly when given directions or to follow multiple steps to correct the problems.

Courtesy of Lexington Division of Police

The National Crime Prevention Centre funds and delivers crime prevention projects that address risk factors, such as drug abuse, that contribute to criminal offending among young people.

EVALUATING WHAT WORKS

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

By Donna Smith-Moncrieffe, National Crime Prevention Centre, Public Safety Canada

Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) provides national leadership on effective and cost-effective ways to prevent and reduce crime by intervening on the risk factors before crime happens. Its approach is to promote the implementation of effective crime prevention practices.

An important part of NCPC's mandate is to fund and deliver crime prevention projects that address risk factors, such as drug abuse, that contribute to criminal offending among young people between 12 and 18 years of age.

The National Anti-Drug Strategy (NADS) is an initiative involving 12 Canadian federal departments and agencies, led by the Department of Justice. The goal of the strategy is to contribute to safer and healthier communities through co-ordinated efforts to prevent use, treat dependency and reduce the production and distribution of illicit drugs.

The NCPC contributes to NADS by identifying and sharing knowledge about effective drug prevention programs with a focus on evaluation research.

CRIME PREVENTION PROJECTS

Over the past year, the NCPC has funded 59 projects that include drug treatment-dedicated activities or related outcomes. These projects involved 92 partnerships with various agencies to increase drug treatment capacity.

One key tool that's used to develop a solid information base on effective crime prevention is to conduct evaluative research studies of the NCPC's funded projects. Following its renewed strategy in 2007, the NCPC placed added focus on providing measurable results and a better return on investment for crime prevention. Achieving measureable results means that each project's objectives and outcome should be tangible enough to show that risk factors such as substance abuse and drug-related crimes have changed as a result of the funded intervention.

All the funded projects conduct comprehensive monitoring and at minimum must be able to assess the target group and determine if the project was implemented as planned. Fourteen evaluation research studies across Canada are undergoing rigorous evaluations to attribute the project to the measured outcomes.

The following three drug abuse programs—Family and Adolescent Straight Talk, Toward No Drugs and Velocity—are undergoing rigorous evaluation or have already been evaluated. The summaries below outline the type of treatment activities and the measures that have been used to determine whether their drug prevention programming is effective.

FAMILY ADOLESCENT STRAIGHT TALK (FAST)

Family Adolescent Straight Talk Day Suspension Program is an outpatient treatment centre in Halton Region, Ontario, that helps adolescents and families in crisis. FAST's services include crisis intervention, adolescent assessment, psychological and addictions counselling, parent counselling, anger and stress management programs, and relapse prevention programs.

The objective of the program is to ensure that participants remain drug free during their school suspension. The program features a 12-week therapy cycle in which these youth attend, at a minimum, weekly one-on-one counselling sessions, undergo regular drug testing, and have follow-up contact and support. Some participants continued to meet with FAST staff for more than a year after the end of the program. FAST also provided education and counselling sessions to the family members of 57 participants as a way to help rebuild relationships.

The evaluation used a single group post-test design with surveys, case studies and document reviews. This design tested various measures after the program to determine if the drug prevention activities contributed to changes in drug use, success in school and relationships.

The FAST Day Suspension Program

was found to successfully support suspended students and help them address behaviours related to drug use, show an interest in returning to school and improve their school attendance and grades.

The program also helps participants increase their employability, strengthen their pro-social relationships with family and peers, and connect to programs for improving their physical and mental health.

TOWARDS NO DRUGS

Towards No Drugs (TND) is a program designed to help youth reduce their tobacco, alcohol or drug use, and violent behaviour. This program targets grade 9 and 10 students in school as well as youth at risk of committing drug and substance abuse-related crimes in the community.

TND consists of 12 interactive sessions. The sessions seek to help participants decrease their use of substances, carrying of weapons and anti-social behaviour, while improving their attendance and academic performance. Each session lasts between 40 and 60 minutes.

The sessions address a number of salient topics: active listening; stereotyping; myths and denials; chemical dependency; the impact of drug abuse; marijuana; tobacco use and cessation; stress, health and goals; self-control; positive and negative thought and behaviour loops; perspectives; and decision-making and commitment.

After reviewing the favourable results achieved in the United States, NCPC encouraged non-governmental organizations to consider implementing the program in Canada. Project TND has been tested in three experimental field trials. Approximately 3,000 youth from 42 schools in Southern California participated across the three trials. At one-year follow-up, relative to comparison groups, participants in the 12-session program experienced the following benefits:

- 27 per cent reduction in cigarette use over 30 days
- 22 per cent reduction in marijuana use over 30 days
- 26 per cent reduction in hard drug use over 30 days
- 9 per cent reduction in alcohol use among baseline drinkers over 30 days
- 25 per cent reduction in weapons carrying among males over one year
- 6 per cent reduction in victimization among males

The NCPC evaluators who are conducting this study are using a matched comparison group design over a four-year period. This design ensures that the participants in both the treatment and comparison groups have similar demographics and risk factors, such as substance abuse patterns. Matching these two different groups ensures that any change in the outcomes being measured can be attributed to the program and not the predisposition of the participants.

The preliminary results of the NCPC evaluation show that after attending the program, participants significantly increased their knowledge of substance abuse and tobacco use, and their consequences.

The results also indicate that the treatment group significantly increased their social/coping skills for staying away from or not increasing their use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs when compared to pre-program measures.

A significant difference was also found in keeping or making their household drug free when compared to pre-program data. Results related to actual soft- and hard-drug use will be available in 2012 once the treatment and non-treatment groups are compared.

VELOCITY

The Velocity program is based on research that demonstrates the effectiveness of outdoor adventure-based programs in helping troubled youth channel their energy into more positive behaviours.

Velocity targets youth aged 13 to18 years, who are at risk of or who have already been involved in criminal activity. The program addresses risk factors such as aggressive and anti-social behaviour, substance abuse and poor attachment to school. Velocity has three components:

- Group building: day-trip adventures (kayaking, rock-climbing) to establish program expectations, build relationships with staff and promote group cohesiveness
- Five-day adventure camp: activities in a remote setting (e.g. zip-lining, horseback riding) in combination with life skills and personal development activities
- Engage-Connect-Shift: ongoing adventure day trips and individual support from project workers and workshops

Similar to the TND study, the evaluators are also using a matched comparison group design over a four-year period. The preliminary results related to substance abuse knowledge indicate that most parents/guardians (92 per cent) and referral respondents (82 per cent) agreed that since participating in Velocity, the participants knew more about substance use and the consequences of using drugs. The results related to actual soft- and hard-drug use will be available in 2012 after comparing the treatment and comparison groups.

The systematic assessment of these projects helps the NCPC to measure how much participants' knowledge, attitudes, drug abuse and drug-related offending actually changed after treatment. Only by evaluating these outcomes can the NCPC determine each program's ultimate success. ▪

Courtesy of Health Canada

These counterfeit Viagra pills look like the real thing, but may contain the wrong ingredients or dangerous additives.

COUNTERFEIT HEALTH PRODUCTS

AGENCIES SHARE BEST PRACTICES

By Lawrence Cheung, Border Integrity specialist and countereit lead, Health Canada

Although the presence of counterfeit health products within the Canadian regulated supply chain is infrequent, Canadians' exposure to counterfeit health products has increased through direct Internet sales and other direct purchases available outside of the regulated supply chain.

A simple Internet search will turn up hundreds of websites that sell drugs. Some Internet pharmacies are legitimate, but many offer products and services that are dangerous, including drugs that are not approved for use in Canada because of safety concerns.

From April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, Health Canada seized more than 3,800 shipments at the border containing counterfeit health products.

Between June and September 2010, the RCMP investigated approximately 416 online pharmacies and 568 online classified advertisements.

A counterfeit health product is one that is represented as, and likely to be mistaken for, an authentic product that Health Canada has authorized for sale in Canada. Counterfeit drugs may contain no active ingredients, drugs with the wrong ingredients, drugs with dangerous additives, contaminants or drugs past their expiry date.

Even if these drugs do not harm the consumer directly, the consumer's condition may get worse without effective treatment. Consumers have no way of knowing where these companies are located, where they get their drugs, what is in their drugs, or how to reach them if there is a problem.

Obtaining prescription drugs without being examined and monitored by a health care practitioner can also result in misdiagnosis, an increased risk for drug interactions or harmful side effects that a qualified health professional could better foresee.

Counterfeit health products and associated activities are direct violations of the *Food and Drugs Act* and its regulations. By not adhering to market authorization requirements, counterfeit health products lack any assurance of safety, quality and efficacy.

As a result, public health is severely endangered, reputations of genuine brands are threatened and consumer confidence in the supply chain is diminished.

Under the *Food and Drugs Act*, Health Canada's Health Products and Food Branch Inspectorate has the authority to take appropriate enforcement measures against the manufacture, distribution, importation and sale of non-compliant health products, including counterfeits, thereby promoting the integrity of the Canadian health product supply chain.

As part of this process, Health Canada conducts risk/benefit assessments, monitors adverse reactions, and communicates information about risks to health professionals and the public.

Health Canada shares the responsibility of protecting Canadian consumers against counterfeit health products with other government organizations, provincial regulators, healthcare professionals, industry stakeholders and consumers.

Such organizations include the RCMP, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), provincial and territorial colleges of pharmacy, and similar foreign regulatory authorities

The sale of counterfeit health products is also a violation of the *Criminal Code*.

The RCMP investigates reports of counterfeit health products being produced, imported or sold in Canada, and pursues action based on the potential risks to Canadians. Health Canada's Inspectorate plays an auxiliary role to RCMP counterfeit investigations by providing compliance and enforcement expertise and laboratory analysis to police.

HEALTH PRODUCTS ANTI-COUNTERFEITING FORUM

The annual Health Products Anti-Counterfeiting Forum encourages collaboration among key anti-counterfeit product partners by providing participating organizations the opportunity to share best practices, build working relationships and develop a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various organizations involved in mitigating the risks of counterfeit health products.

Each year, the forum is attended by employees from Health Canada, the RCMP and CBSA as well as other key partner and non-government stakeholders.

Health Canada, along with the RCMP, co-hosted the third forum in Ottawa, Ontario. The forum was divided into two sessions. The first session included presentations directly of interest to the three government organizations and other regulatory groups. At this time, the RCMP presented case studies and new initiatives to combat counterfeit health products and Health Canada discussed regulatory developments in the area of counterfeit health product sales on the Internet, actions for imported health products and updates on the Anti-Counterfeit Program.

In addition, Health Canada and the RCMP performed a joint presentation highlighting activities performed in the Atlantic region in support of operation PANGEA III, the INTERPOL co-ordinated international week of action targeting the online supply of illegal medicines including counterfeit.

This session also included presentations from key partners such as the Ontario College of Pharmacists, the United States Food and Drug Administration and the United States Customs and Border Protection, offering alternative domestic partnerships and the sharing of international best practices in the fight against counterfeit health products.

The Canadian urologist, Dr. Michael B. Greenspan, M.D., F.R.C.S. also presented his perspective on the dangers of counterfeit pharmaceuticals, providing insight on additional health risks that are often unknown to the Canadian public.

The second session was open to speakers from non-government stakeholders who are known for their involvement and interest in the fight against counterfeit health products. Presentations included global developments and an industry perspective on managing and responding to external threats to the Canadian supply chain by Thomas Kubic from the Pharmaceutical Security Institute. Members from industry security teams, including Pfizer, Novartis and Sanofi-Aventis, also provided a panel discussion on the challenges and successes of corporate efforts to combat counterfeiters.

THE FUTURE

Canadian anti-counterfeit partners agree that the issue of counterfeit health products is here to stay. Collaboration among these key partners is necessary to effectively protect the health and safety of Canadians from this ongoing threat.

In order to understand best practices among the various organizations, it is important first to understand each other's roles and responsibilities, and to continue working together to maintain an open network for communicating, collaborating and identifying areas for improvement.

Discussions for a fourth Health Products Anti-Counterfeiting Forum have already begun. In the meantime, collaboration continues among the RCMP, Health Canada and the CBSA at the operational and co-ordinating levels.

Through daily interactions and opportunities provided by the forum, all three organizations are more readily able to adapt and co-ordinate their enforcement activities to react with the speed necessary to combat counterfeit activity in Canada. ■

RCMP TACKLES COUNTERFEIT DRUGS ONLINE

In April 2010, the RCMP launched a new initiative entitled Project Centurion to take on the growing issue of counterfeit pharmaceuticals online.

Guillaume Demers, a criminal intelligence analyst based in Montréal, Quebec, says the issue had become a growing concern for Canadian police. The RCMP was receiving requests from international to local partners to assist in investigating these cases.

Demers is responsible for collecting and analyzing complaints and information coming in through various channels. Once he has built a sufficient intelligence package, he forwards the file on to local investigators. He has already identified 600 local classified ads selling what are suspected to be counterfeit drugs, analyzed 400 online pharmacies and opened 27 operational files in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

While Demers is currently the only full-time resource on Project Centurion, the RCMP is working towards adding a regular member investigator and a Health Canada research analyst to the team.

Demers says that one of the main challenges law enforcement faces with these investigations is the counterfeit laws and legislation.

"In Canada, there are no provisions in the *Criminal Code* that touch counterfeiting of pharmaceuticals," says Demers. "You will get the same time for counterfeiting a t-shirt as you would for counterfeiting medication."

As a result, Demers says there isn't enough public knowledge about the threat of counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

He hopes a partnership with Health Canada will help Project Centurion become more proactive and facilitate spreading the message to the public.

He is also partnering with the *Sûreté du Québec* (Quebec's provincial police) and *Service de police de la ville de Montréal* (Montreal's Police Service) to disrupt the work of illicit sites he has identified.

"We all have our own priorities and limited resources with only eight hours in the day and it's very demanding," says Demers. "But I think for a phenomenon as global as the Internet, we need to have this approach to provide better protection for the Canadian public."

— Sigrid Forberg

JUST THE FACTS

Natural disasters often provide the perfect distraction for criminals and ordinary people alike to commit crimes under the protection of disorder and confusion. As the following facts show, these crimes of opportunity, from looting to human trafficking, take a toll on already vulnerable victims and communities.

OPPORTUNISTIC CRIMES FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS

- Following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice created the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) to monitor the millions being donated to disaster relief.
- The NCDF was originally created to protect the billions of dollars collected to help Hurricane Katrina victims. In their five-year report in 2010, the NCDF had handled nearly 40,000 reports of fraud.
- Researchers have tied the socioeconomic conditions of a city with the rates of burglary following a storm. When Hurricane Betsy struck New Orleans in 1965, the city was close to its peak population and economically booming. One month after, the burglary rate was nine per 100,000. In contrast, the burglary rate in the month after Hurricane Katrina was 245.9 per 100,000.
- Cormac Ó Gráda from University College Dublin reports that the Irish famine in 1845, due to a potato blight, resulted in a rise of property crimes like burglary.
- Police in Rift Valley, Kenya's largest and most populous province, have confirmed that in the wake of the 2011 Somalian drought and famine, more than 200 illegal immigrants each week enter the province from Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Somalia.
- This huge influx of refugees and illegal immigrants leaves these displaced people vulnerable to various forms of exploitation. The International Organisation for Migration has estimated that more than 100,000 people are trafficked into Kenya's coastal province each year.
- A women's group in Sri Lanka received reports of rape, gang rape, molestation and physical abuse of women and girls in the course of unsupervised rescue operations and in temporary shelters after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.
- In 1977, when a power outage plunged New York City into darkness, more than 2,000 stores were looted, causing an estimated property loss of $1 billion — enough to qualify the worst-hit areas for federal disaster aid.
- "Looting" is not a criminal category in American penal codes, save for some individual states that have recently legally formalized the term.
- Dr. Erik auf der Heide, who has served as a member of the Disaster Section of the American College of Emergency Physicians, says that in civil disorders and riots in the United States, increased criminal activity is uncommon. In fact, he says when looting does occur, it's usually carried out by outsiders rather than members of the community.
- The Haitian National Police reported a rise in crime following the 2010 earthquake, allegedly linked to the 5,136 prisoners that escaped, including approximately 700 violent gang members.
- In the eight months following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, more than 7,300 boys and girls were smuggled into the neighbouring Dominican Republic by traffickers, compared to 950 in 2009.
- The 2011 earthquake in Japan knocked out the security systems, opening the vault of a credit union in Kesennuma, and leading to the disappearance of ¥40 million ($534,395 Canadian), which was then discovered and reported to police 11 days later.
- American journalist Christopher Beam has speculated that the lack of looting in Japan following the earthquake can be attributed to the efforts of both the police and the organized crime syndicate, Yakuza, in enforcing order across the country.

TAKING TO THE SKIES

NEW TOOL FACILITATES INVESTIGATIONS

By Sigrid Forberg

What was once just one man's hobby has now become an invaluable tool in police investigations.

Several Canadian policing agencies, including the RCMP in Saskatchewan and British Columbia as well as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), are now using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to help wrap up cases faster.

In his spare time, Cst. Marc Sharpe of the OPP's Forensic Identification Unit in Kenora, is a model aircraft enthusiast and, in 2007, was inspired to bring that hobby to work. In his own garage, with materials like balsa wood, a curtain rod and Styrofoam, Sharpe built a UAV. The new tool was used to take the first UAV aerial pictures used in Canadian court.

He no longer makes his own models, saying he's left that time-intensive task to proper manufacturers. One of these Canadian companies is Saskatchewan-based Draganfly Innovations Inc., who create remote controlled electric helicopter platforms. The units have cameras attached, with the purpose of obtaining photographs or video.

The autonomy of the Draganfly systems vary, but Transport Canada restrictions require the operator to be within visual sight and also limit the flying height to 400 feet (122 metres).

Kevin Lauscher, the head of police and military sales for Draganfly Innovations, says although similar in appearance, UAVs are much easier to use than hobby airplanes.

"Some people believe that systems need to be complicated, but when you're doing a simple investigation, there is no need for that degree of sophistication," says Lauscher. "This works well without having to program maps and reference points into it."

Sharpe now operates four UAV platforms from three different offices in Northwestern Ontario. He says it has been a cost-effective way of getting aerial images of crime scenes, and has saved the organization more than $90,000 over the past few years. Instead of having to rent helicopters to get poor-quality images through a window, he can now get high-quality shots quicker with less hassle.

"Another good thing that has actually come from this is that because this is so new, we've been doing a lot of work with other departments," says Sharpe. "The shoulder flashes don't matter anymore because we're all trying to do the same thing."

Sgt. Dave Domoney, the manager of the RCMP collision reconstruction program in Saskatchewan, says he was looking for a way around the expense of helicopters when he read about Sharpe's approach.

In December 2010, Domoney started a one-year pilot program with one of the most popular Draganfly models, the Draganfly X6. Since then, the program has grown to include three more platforms, including a unit from a local Saskatchewan company, Chaos Choppers. He's also flown operational flights for forensic identification, major crimes, search and rescue and their dive team.

"I can see this program just growing exponentially," says Domoney. "When I first took it on, I had no idea that it was going to be as useful as we've found it to be. The pictures we are getting are absolutely spectacular."

In British Columbia, Cpl. Dave Jewers, a forensic collision reconstructionist for the RCMP, started his own pilot in September 2010. Because the programs are so new, Jewers faced some setbacks before he could use the device because at the time, there was no relevant policy in place.

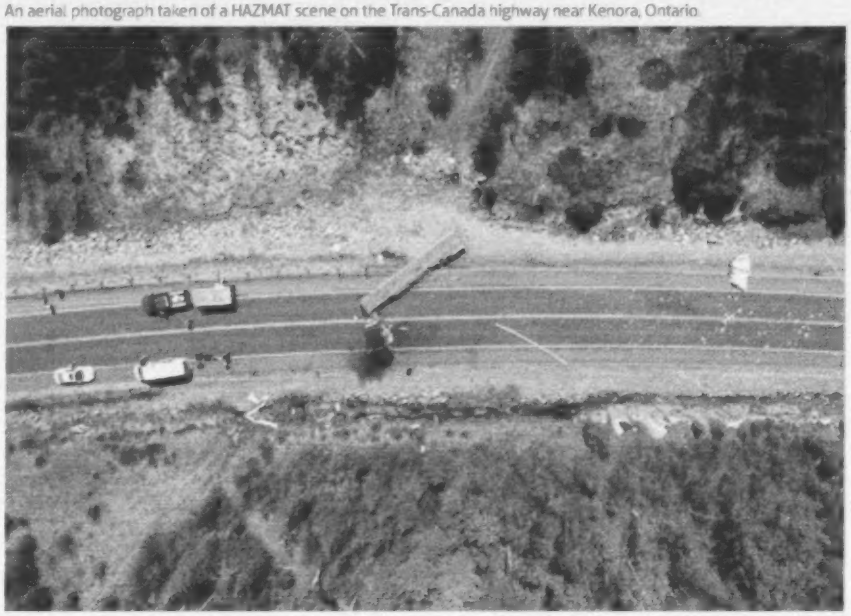
Now that they are airborne, the UAV has proved itself an invaluable tool. Jewers says due to the nature of the highways in Vancouver, a collision can result in traffic backups for hours. But with the ability to send the UAV up, he can now capture and clear the scene in just 45 minutes, which makes a huge difference for commuters. And the products they're bringing to court are better than before.

He's also looking into how else UAVs can be used for departments outside of traffic collision investigations — including assisting emergency response teams, forensic identification and tactical troops. Even organizations outside of policing have asked for guidance, including B.C. Hydro.

Jewers is also currently working with the other forces using UAVs to create a guidebook for other agencies looking into adopting their own programs across the country, which he hopes will be completed in a few months.

"Anyone that wants to set up a program can refer to it," says Jewers. "Within a year, this will explode across the country. Every police force will want one and be working towards getting one." ■

An aerial photograph taken of a HAZMAT scene on the Trans-Canada highway near Kenora, Ontario.



Courtesy Cst. Marc Sharpe

TRACKING DOWN TREASURES

ONE FORMER FBI AGENT'S PASSION BECOMES HIS PROFESSION

Courtesy Robert Wittman

A Rembrandt painting worth $35 million recovered by Wittman, which he considers FBI Art Crime Team's greatest achievement.

Robert Wittman, founder of the FBI Art Crime Team, built a 20-year career around recovering stolen works of art and cultural artifacts. The now retired agent and author of Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures *as well as founder of Robert Wittman, Inc., a private international art security firm, spoke with* Gazette *writer Sigrid Forberg about what makes art crime unique.*

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THE FIELD OF ART CRIME?

My parents were in the antiques business so I got a pretty good upbringing in the business of art. And when we talk about art crime, especially from an enforcement perspective, it's not about art history or the folklore of art, it's really the art business that we're talking about. So to be a good art investigator, one needs to know the business.

WHAT KIND OF TRAINING OR KNOWLEDGE DOES THAT REQUIRE?

I think it comes down to knowing how to make an art deal. The art business is very specific, it's not like other businesses throughout the world. In the United States alone, it's an $80 billion a year industry and it's totally unregulated. Most other industries that size have regulatory agencies, commissions and government agencies that overlook them. But in the art business, it's basically the wild west, a buyer-beware economy.

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER COMPARABLE INDUSTRIES THAT ARE REGULATED?

If you look at the real estate industry, you can buy a multi-million dollar property and there are all kinds of laws and regulatory bodies involved there — zoning officials, boards for local townships. And also laws as far as sales are concerned. As far as art, there's none of that and yet you can buy a $20-million property or a $20-million Renoir.

I'm not saying that's bad and I think that most art dealers, art connoisseurs and collectors would not want regulations, but if you don't have knowledge about what you're involved with, or what you're buying, then you're at risk for fraud, forgeries and fakes.

HOW DO ART CRIME INVESTIGATIONS DIFFER FROM OTHER KINDS OF INVESTIGATIONS?

You can't do an investigation of a theft of a Monet the same way you would do a Chevrolet. An investigator has to have some idea of where thieves who might not know exactly what they have would go to try to sell a piece of art. Art's totally different from other types of contraband. When you steal a car, many times, the cars go straight to what they call chop shops, and are taken apart and the parts are all sold. In fact, the parts are worth more than the whole. When you sell drugs, you cut the drugs up into different, smaller amounts to sell on the street. But with artwork, you can't cut it up, you can't chop, nothing can be done to the art because it destroys the value. So that piece has to remain intact, whole, and has to go through some type of sale process. And that's when we recover stolen artwork, when it hits the market.

HOW IS GOING UNDERCOVER IN THESE CASES DIFFERENT FROM OTHER INVESTIGATIONS?

I think to be able to go undercover legitimately in the art market, you have to have some idea of what art is and some background in how to do an art deal, which again, is different from just a standard car sale or weapons or anything like that. When it comes to art, you have to recognize what it is and have an interest. And you have to be able to speak about it in a way that makes you seem like a connoisseur.

WHAT DIFFERENTIATES THESE ART THIEVES FROM OTHER CRIMINALS?

The criminals are a little more sophisticated than your normal thieves. When it comes to art theft itself, the stealing of material in mu-

seums and galleries, about 88 per cent of art thefts from museums, from what we've seen has been insider theft. So when we say insider, we don't necessarily mean people who always work there. It's also experts who go in and are given the ability to have access to the collections.

So really, it's the people who have the keys to the kingdom that take from museums.

But the major part of art crime is not theft. Most of the art crime that is done is through forgeries, fakes and fraud.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE NUMBER ONE MISPERCEPTION PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT ART CRIME?

People think that it's lucrative, that it might be appealing, they see these movies that are out there like the *Thomas Crowne Affair, Entrapment* and they make it very appealing and sexy.

But the truth is that generally speaking, the people involved in these things are common thieves just trying to make money with no idea what they've stolen. And I've seen pieces destroyed over the years, which is really a total loss.

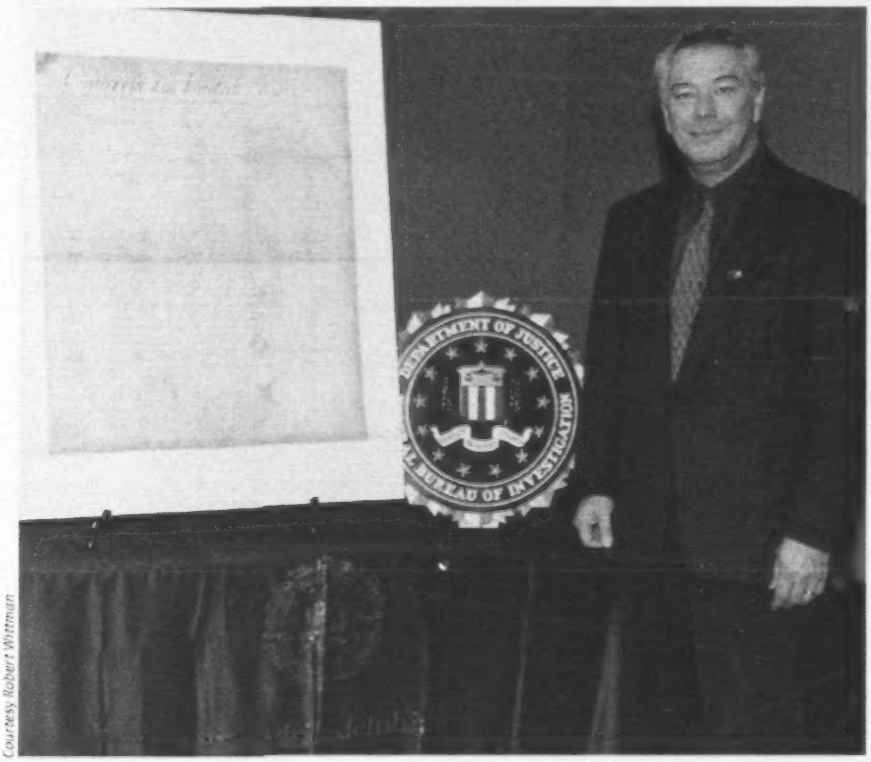
I feel like it's our job to protect this material for our children and grandchildren because these pieces have lasted hundreds of years and they've been protected for us, so we have a responsibility to do that for them.

HOW DO NORTH AMERICAN EFFORTS TO FIGHT THESE KINDS OF CRIMES COMPARE TO THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES?

I think North American efforts are more advanced than other countries in the prevention of art crime — we have very sophisticated, good security integration in our museums and as a result, we stop the theft before it happens.

But in the investigation aspect, we're a little bit behind our European counterparts because in the United States, and in Canada, we have limited numbers of investigators. If you look at the different countries, Italy has three brigades of the *Carabinieri*, which is 300 individuals, there's two full squads in Spain and also the OCBC art theft team in Paris have 32 members just in Paris. Although in the United States, we do 40 per cent of the art market per year, we're lucky if we have 13 part-time people.

Wittman poses with one of the original copies of the U.S. Bill of Rights, recovered in 2003, after having been lost for more than a century.



Courtesy Robert Wittman

FOR TEAMS LIKE THIS, WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DO YOU NEED FROM THE TOP?

Well, you always need the support for the financing of investigations, no matter what the investigation is. I think that most departments and bureaus do support art theft investigations because it's good public relations when you get a stolen piece of artwork back. And I think the public does have a fascination for it and are interested in recovering the cultural property.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF THESE ART CRIMES?

All of us. When we recovered the Rembrandt that was stolen, it was taken in 2000 at gunpoint from the Swedish national museum. We had three countries working together in the United States, Denmark and Sweden to recover this small painting. And there's a reason for that.

Had that been, as I say, a Chevrolet, there would have been no interest. But the truth is, because it's a Rembrandt from 1630, and it's the only self-portrait he ever did on copper, it was considered a national priority for the country of Sweden. Most pieces of property would not rise to that level. But artwork does.

And the reason I say this is that we're all owners — not just the museum in Sweden, but the whole world — because it's a piece of cultural property that belongs to the human civilization.

IN TERMS OF YOUR OWN CAREER, WHAT WAS YOUR MOST REWARDING CASE?

I've recovered more than $300 million worth of art and I think that each case is special. And each time you get involved in a case, whether it's a U.S. Civil War battle flag carried into battle or it's a Rembrandt or a Norman Rockwell painting, they all have different values but are important in some way.

When we look at value, if you look at one of the Civil War battle flags that I mentioned, it's worth about $35,000, but that pales compared to the value of the $35 million Rembrandt.

But when you see five individuals were killed carrying the flag, the cultural value goes way up. All of the cases are special because we're recovering pieces of human history and pieces of civilization that can't be replaced. ■

LATEST RESEARCH IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

The following are excerpts from recent research related to justice and law enforcement and reflect the views and opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the organizations for which they work. To access the full reports, please visit the website links at the bottom of each summary.

GENERATIONAL WANTS VS. NEEDS: THE IMPACT ON CANADIAN POLICE SERVICE EMPLOYEES' JOB SATISFACTION

By Eli Sopow, PhD, Director of Continuous Improvement, E Division, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Employee job satisfaction is increasingly seen as an important correlation to workplace wellness, trust levels, productivity and overall employee engagement as well as being a contributing factor to the delivery of highly-rated customer and client service.

As new employees enter the workplace, human resource professionals are looking at challenges in recruitment and retention, evolving definitions of workplace competencies and behaviours and possible differences in employee expectations and entitlement.

These challenges are particularly acute in the field of policing, which has been described as among the most demanding and dangerous occupations.

The study, which involved the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and its service in the province of Saskatchewan, explored how three major generational cohorts, who, for the purposes of this study are defined as Generation Y (19 to 30 years old), Generation X (31 to 45 years old) and Baby Boomers (46 to 60+ years old), rate both the importance and performance of key workplace factors and how they correlate to employee job satisfaction.

An invitation to participate in an online survey was sent by the Saskatchewan RCMP's Commanding Officer to all 1,852 employees.

A link was provided to an internet-based survey where final results could only be accessed through use of a password by the researcher.

The survey consisted of nine workplace performance questions, which were designed to follow a review of several commonly used job satisfaction and employee engagement instruments.

The survey received an overall response rate of 32 per cent and was found to be an accurate representation of the total workforce.

All three generations rated the same variables as their top three most important measures — fairness, accountability and respect — but they disagreed somewhat on the weight of importance.

The study showed that Baby Boomers place more weight on these factors compared to both Generations Y and X. This may be taken as an indication that Baby Boomers take work more seriously than younger employees or that they might be more invested in their jobs.

These findings offer important new insights into the management of different generations of employees and challenge many conventional views of the needs and attitudes of Generation Y.

They also show that there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to forming attitudes or human resource policing and processes related to generational labels such as Generation Y, X, or Baby Boomers.

The specific needs of employees do not deviate to a great extent between generations. This suggests that initiatives to improve employee engagement should be equally targeted to all age groups. And in fact, contrary to popular opinion, Baby Boomers may be the "needier" generation of employees. ■

TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT, PLEASE VISIT:
POLICECOUNCIL.CA

STRESS, BURNOUT, AND HEALTH

By William P. McCarty, Wesley Skogan, Dennis Rosenbaum, Susan Harnett and Amie Schuck, researchers with the National Police Research Platform

Research suggests policing can be a stressful occupation due to the danger of the job, the bureaucratic nature of the organization and the reliance on peers to mitigate these stressors.

Support is crucial because officers depend on one another to ensure their lives and safety.

Stress and burnout can lead to illness, mood changes, alcohol use, and sleep disturbances in the short term. And perhaps even to cardiovascular disease and psychological disorders in the long term.

Not only can heightened levels of stress have negative effects on officers and their relationships, but it can lead to an increase in citizen complaints and rapid employee turnover.

Given these implications, stress and burnout has become a priority of the National Police Research Platform. To this end, a 55-question online survey was developed to measure stress, burnout, health, stressors, and demographic information among law enforcement officers across multiple agencies of varying sizes.

The physical manifestations of stress, burnout — defined as exhaustion of physical or emotional strength usually as a result of prolonged stress — and health in general were measured.

Also considered was the magnitude of various stressors experienced by law enforcement officers such as elements of danger, bureaucratic stressors and peer support and trust.

As of Dec. 2010, 11 agencies had completed the survey with an average response rate of 59 per cent.

For analysis, the agencies were divided by size.

Three of the agencies were located in large cities or counties, while the other eight were in small cities or towns.

It was found that officers from the larger agencies reported significantly less burnout and better health than the officers from smaller agencies.

The differences in physical stress were not found to be statistically significant, although respondents from smaller agencies did report more.

These findings might be explained by the fact that more than 30 per cent of the small agency respondents felt a lack of trust among co-workers, significantly higher than the large agencies.

A significant discrepancy was also found when comparing stressors involving perceptions of one's supervisor as well as perceptions of danger across large and small departments.

Respondents in smaller agencies felt less

support from supervisors and higher perceptions of danger.

One possible topic to be explored in the future is the perceived availability of, and incentives for using, human resources, workout facilities, and other stress-reducers.

Future research should also continue to explore the relationship between agency size and the various outcome measures. Qualitative research, in the form of open-ended interviews, may help in understanding this discrepancy.

The National Police Platform seeks to advance knowledge and practice in policing. ▪

TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT, PLEASE VISIT: NATIONALPOLICERESEARCH.ORG

RCMP

Recent research offers insight into managing the various generations within the RCMP.

MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT CHILD SEX OFFENDERS

By Kelly Richards, Senior Research Analyst, Crime and Populations, Australian Institute of Criminology

This paper evaluates five common misperceptions about child sex offenders.

ALL CHILD SEX OFFENDERS ARE PAEDOPHILES

The terms 'paedophile' and 'child sex offender' are often used interchangeably, however, they have different meanings. Not all child sex offenders are paedophiles and conversely, not all paedophiles are child sex offenders.

Paedophiles are individuals who are sexually attracted to young children and who may or may not act on this attraction. Conversely, some child sex offenders act out of opportunity rather than an exclusive sexual interest in children.

CHILD SEX OFFENDERS TARGET STRANGERS

The most common abusers of children under 15 years of age are a male relative other than the father or stepfather, a family friend, an acquaintance or neighbour, another known person or the father or stepfather.

Evidence demonstrates that in the vast majority of cases, children's abusers are known to them. However, male children are abused by strangers at a much higher rate than females.

ALL CHILD SEX OFFENDERS WERE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE THEMSELVES

Research shows the majority of victims of child sexual abuse do not become perpetrators later in life.

A range of factors such as experiencing emotional and physical abuse or neglect as a child, being exposed to family violence and early exposure to pornography and the role of gender may impact a child's likelihood of later becoming a perpetrator.

CHILD SEX OFFENDERS HAVE HIGH RATES OF RECIDIVISM

Measuring sexual recidivism is challenging. Most studies define recidivism as a reconviction for a new offence. As sexual offences are often not reported and there is a high rate of attrition, relying on reconviction provides a lower number. And the longer the period measured, the higher the rate of recidivism is likely to be.

Also, those who offend against children in their own families have access to only a small number of children, thereby limiting opportunities for recidivism.

However, within the subcategory of those who target male victims outside of their family, reoffending in the long term is far more likely than those who target female and / or family member victims.

BY THE TIME AN OFFENDER IS DETECTED, HE HAS VICTIMIZED HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN

Child sex offenders are a heterogeneous group, with varying offending profiles.

One study found key differences between incest perpetrators and other child sex offenders.

Incest perpetrators report a very high number of acts per victim compared to non-incest perpetrators.

Given the differences in offenders, it is unlikely that on average, child sex offenders have victimized hundreds of children before coming to the attention of authorities.

CONCLUSION

An understanding of child sex offenders is critical if child sexual abuse is to be prevented and responded to effectively.

A wide range of criminal justice and related professionals and processes deal with child sex offenders and could benefit from an accurate understanding of this population of offenders. ▪

TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT, PLEASE VISIT: AIC.GOV.AU

A SOCIAL MEDIA STORM

USING FACEBOOK AND TWITTER DURING THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS

By Tim Larkin, Media and Public Affairs Branch, Queensland Police Service, Australia

Throughout every major event in world history, the public's desire for information is insatiable and technology has evolved to match that desire.

To see the latest news during the Second World War, people had to wait a week before they could view the latest newsreels at the cinema.

The advent of television replaced this need, broadcasting the latest news directly into households each night. And now, with the prevalence of the Internet, news from throughout the world is made available almost instantaneously.

This reality was not lost on the Queensland Police Service (QPS) during the widespread flooding that affected 90 per cent of the Australian state in early 2011.

Queensland covers more than 1.7 million square kilometres — larger than Quebec — and is home to nearly five million people. It is the most decentralized state in Queensland.

The executive director of the QPS Media and Public Affairs Branch, Kym Charlton, recognized the need to keep the public accurately informed during the flooding. Relying on mainstream media could mean that important local information may not reach those who needed to hear it.

"The need to preserve life was paramount, and the best way our branch could help do that was by posting the latest information on our Twitter and Facebook accounts as soon as we received it," said Charlton.

Having only been established six months prior, QPS's presence in the social media landscape was relatively new.

Events in recent years, such as the Mumbai terrorist attacks, demonstrated a need for law enforcement agencies to maintain a visible presence online.

Social media dominated the first hours of mainstream coverage following the Mumbai attacks, but there was no official voice providing accurate information during those first crucial hours.

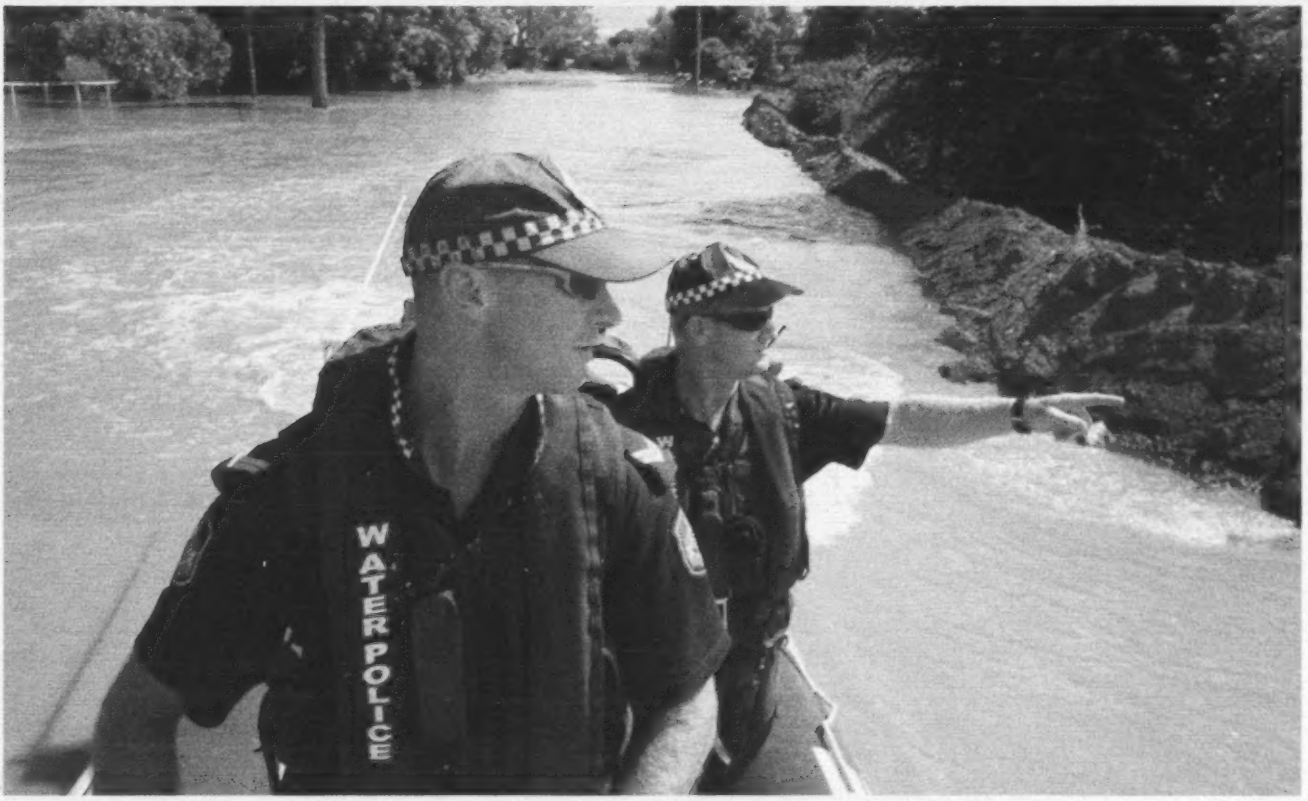
For authorities dealing with a critical incident, being silent in the digital sphere is to be excluded from the news cycle and be forced to react to coverage rather than influence and shape public opinion.

Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart — who was to become state disaster co-ordinator during the flooding and cyclones of last summer — saw the risks associated with not being in the social media space. He signed off on a trial of social media while the branch drafted policy around its use within the QPS.

When the QPS first established Facebook and Twitter accounts, they expected the positives would outweigh the negatives. But little did they realize how important this decision would be.

On November 1, the QPS was mandat-

As flooding spread across central Queensland, active users of the QPS Facebook page jumped from 6,000 at the beginning of December to 18,000 in early January. By January 11, that number rose to 165,000.



Queensland Police Service

ed as the lead agency in emergency response under new disaster management legislation. By December, a strong La Niña weather pattern began asserting itself in the Pacific Ocean unleashing a series of events that would pound Queensland until the first days of April.

Category 1 Cyclone Tasha made landfall on Christmas Eve in Central Queensland, bringing massive rainfall.

As flooding spread across central Queensland, active users of the QPS Facebook page rose rapidly from about 6,000 at the beginning of December to 18,000 in early January.

People sitting in cars stranded by flood waters watched live press conferences on their smart phones, shared information and kept abreast of the situation.

January 10 was the darkest day of the crisis.

A supercell storm brought torrential rain to the city of Toowoomba, 125 kilometres west of the state capital Brisbane and perched high on the Great Dividing Range.

What happened next has been described as an inland tsunami. Two creeks running through the town overflowed to swamp the centre of the city, washing away cars and decimating business and houses in the water's path.

A mother and her young son were washed to their deaths from their stalled car before emergency workers could save them.

The storm swept east down the range and over the Lockyer Valley, dumping a massive volume of rain and causing a wall of water four metres high to sweep down the valley.

Critically, the deluge also overwhelmed the catchment area for the major rivers running through some of the most populated areas of Southeast Queensland.

Eighteen people lost their lives in the space of four hours, with some towns such as Grantham completely obliterated. To this day, three people are still missing. Never before has Queensland been through a disaster that affected so many.

THE NEED TO STAY CONNECTED

The sheer devastation experienced and the imminent threat facing Brisbane — Australia's third largest city — saw a dramatic rise in use of the QPS Facebook page.

Within 24 hours of the events in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley, the number of Facebook users following QPS rose to 165,000. During this time, the page received a record 39 million story views, the equivalent of 450 hits per second.

Queenslanders and their families and friends around the world turned to Facebook, with the QPS page becoming the de facto central hub for information.

Radio stations and television networks directed their audience to the QPS Facebook page as the source for official information.

Content from local government websites overwhelmed with traffic was reproduced on the QPS page to relieve some of the congestion.

All media briefings from the State Disaster Coordination Centre were streamed live and archived on YouTube, allowing the public to hear first from the people in charge of the response and recovery efforts.

The situation was rapidly changing and people wanted to stay informed in order to stay safe. The moment the QPS received an update, the public affairs branch posted it online.

"We were live tweeting from briefings and press conferences, so the public was able to immediately access all the information, not just what the media chose to cover," said Charlton.

The two-way communication was invaluable. If those commenting on Facebook had specific concerns, QPS could directly respond to them. In some instances, the public provided updates on the situation in certain areas.

The ability to receive that volume of information and pass it along to officers on the ground in real-time was something that wouldn't have been possible six months ago.

QUASHING RUMOURS

Just as social media is good for circulating information, it is also good at spreading rumours and misinformation.

Tweets about public transport shutting down, dam walls collapsing and morgues filling with unidentified bodies were spreading public fear.

To counteract the worst of the rumours, QPS Media adopted the 'mythbuster' hash tag on Twitter and Facebook to rapidly and authoritatively correct public perceptions and quash unfounded rumours.

The mythbuster posts were perhaps the most successful use of social media during the disasters. The public was grateful to receive the correct information from a source they knew they could trust.

QPS's public affairs branch is small, with about 25 staff in the media and projects section and of those, only one dedicated digital media officer.

With the extra workload involved in monitoring the social media, combined with the deployment of several media staff to disaster hotspots around the state, the public affairs branch was stretched to the limit.

However, it received invaluable support from media staff in other state government departments and police jurisdictions. Two interns also generously gave up their lives for several weeks to assist with the social media aspect.

The QPS media team has seen its efforts recognized throughout the year, receiving the 2011 Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Public Safety Award, the 2011 Australian Safer Communities State Government Award, and the 2011 Australian Government Excellence in eGovernment award among others.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With the floodwaters now receded, the QPS media team is looking to the future.

Its efforts during the crisis went a long way to convince many doubters of the benefits that social media provides to government, and encouraged many agencies to embrace it.

In the event of future emergencies, QPS is developing a website called QLD Alert. With so many official Queensland Government voices on social media now, QLD Alert will incorporate all vital public safety information these agencies post online into a single source, making it easier for the public to stay informed.

"The thousands of positive comments received on social media from grateful members of the public during this time show just how much the community appreciated the work done by QPS officers in difficult and dangerous situations," said Charlton.

"While we can't prove that the work done by QPS media helped to save lives, hopefully we at least made the work of front-line officers a little easier by informing and calming the people affected by these disasters." ▪

EASING THE STRAIN

NEW SOFTWARE SPEEDS SORTING OF CHILD EXPLOITATION IMAGES

By Mallory Procunier

As part of its corporate social responsibility, Microsoft Corporation is making it easier for police to sort through images of child sexual exploitation.

The Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CPCMEC) has recently received a license for Microsoft's PhotoDNA software. This technology allows forensic investigators to immediately call up visually similar images in the Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) and categorize images based on what they look like, rather than what raw data is inside the image file.

This will make the categorization process much more efficient as searching through thousands of seized images of child sexual abuse to find images of the same child can be emotionally demanding for investigators. It can also take away from the time it takes to track down these children.

FINDING EFFICIENCIES

PhotoDNA technology works by assigning each digital photograph a unique numerical signature or a "hash value" that is calculated based on the visual characteristics of that image. The signature, which is a mathematical value based on the colour composition and other visual aspects of a photo, is then compared with the signatures of other photos. This allows police to rapidly find and bring together matching signatures, or visually similar photos, across large data sets such as CETS or Facebook.

"If we leverage PhotoDNA to the material that we're already seizing and we integrate that into our categorization programs, we'll see a 15 to 20 per cent increase in categorization efficiency," says D/Sgt. Arnold Guerin, a program manager at CPCMEC who was seconded from the Saanich Police Department in British Columbia to help integrate CETS.

Existing technologies limit how photos in CETS can be tracked. For instance, if the photo has been altered or shared even once, its hash value—or code—changes. Tracking down photos of the same child becomes a lengthy process as existing technology is not able to recognize that two photos that appear identical to the naked eye are in fact digitally different.

By combining these methods with new technologies, PhotoDNA is bridging the gaps by categorizing photos based on their visual makeup, regardless of how often they have been modified.

"By current technologies alone, we're not discovering new material to help us find children," Guerin says. "We have to change with the times and constantly stay up with technology. That's just the reality of investigating child abuse when it involves the Internet."

TAKING A BETTER LOOK

With current standards, it takes an investigator approximately 16 hours to categorize 100,000 images of child sexual exploitation.

By adding PhotoDNA technology, this time is cut in half, and more time can be dedicated to the investigation.

"Spending days looking at child abuse images can tire you out," Guerin says. "If we can use technology to help investigators look at fewer images and get their job done faster, we're not just protecting kids in Canada but we're also protecting the mental health of our investigators."

Photo DNA will be available to CETS users in the RCMP, as well as in municipal and provincial police agencies, in March 2012.

The technology will continue to be free for all users through Microsoft's commitment to support anti-child exploitation activities, to which they have already donated over $12 million.

"Microsoft has this idea that they are a large corporation that's built to make money, but that they also have a responsibility to help police who are being impacted by their company," Guerin says. "They have access to technology that could help make our lives easier."

Guerin is currently working with Interpol to integrate the PhotoDNA software into their processes to reach the international law enforcement community. He is also encouraging private software companies who work with police agencies to integrate with CETS and use PhotoDNA in the software they provide so everyone is on the same page.

"We are pushing the world in one direction and that is to share their intelligence related to images with the sole goal of finding and rescuing kids," Guerin says. "If we can influence people and our partners around the world to search by PhotoDNA, then we're all agreeing to one standard." ■

PhotoDNA software is able to group together visually similar images in CETS so photos of the same child can be found easily.